Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Soviet Official's Remarks on Relations Noted

FL1204204390 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Today, the Soviet Union denied that difficulties regarding the delivery of supplies to Cuba are linked to a lack of political resolve on the part of the USSR toward our country.

During a news conference held in Moscow today, Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yuriy Gremitskikh confirmed that the USSR is willing to fulfill its bilateral agreements with Cuba and to continue with its aid to Cuba in all the various fields.

Gremitskikh added: There are problems with the supplies—both in Cuba and in the USSR—but this does not mean that there is a lack of political willingness to solve those problems.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry Information Administration deputy chief also agreed with the statement made by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca that bilateral relations are most favorable.

Minister Comments on Relations With GDR

LD1104220690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1645 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Havana (ADN)—The Cuban first vice minister of foreign relations, Jose Raul Viera Linares, has expressed Cuba's interest in continuing the close relations with the GDR after the change of government in Berlin. Answering questions of the ADN correspondent in Havana he declared: "As with all other countries with which we have relations of friendship and respect like with the GDR, we are watching with interest the political change that is taking place. At the same time we hope that the relatons of cooperation and the contacts between Cuban and GDR citizens will not be affected by this." There were many questions about the future development of cooperation, and the GDR's foreign relations will depend not only on its new government, but also on the process of unification with the FRG.

During the last 30 years very close relations of friendship and cooperation developed between the GDR and Cuba, between their institutions, enterprises and peoples. The GDR was, said the vice minister, involved in the most important investment projects in Cuba, trade between the two states attained a high volume, and the GDR trained hundreds of Cuban engineers and workers. The further development of these diverse and valuable relations will now depend on the will of the present GDR leadership and on the fulfillment of bilateral agreements.

Cuba's view is that the unification of the two German states must be the result of a sovereign and independent decision of the peoples of both ccuntries. In this the international commitments of both states will have to be respected. Cuba has normal relations with both parts of Germany and is hoping that these relations can be continued in the future.

Havana Notes U.S. Bill To Reinforce Blockade

FL1304020890 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The United States is getting ready to further tighten the blockade imposed on Cuba almost 30 years ago with the intent of eliminating the Cuban revolution.

The U.S. House of Representatives will soon discuss a bill in this regard proposed by Dante Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The proposal presented by Fascell, Democratic representative for the State of Florida, is intended to give the Latin American countries an excuse to stop or reduce their trade relations with Cuba. The proposal also bans U.S. corporations maintaining trade relations with Cuba through their subsidiaries in third countries from continuing to do so.

The bill would also allow President Bush to reduce U.S. aid to countries that buy sugar from Cuba and would also prevent ships transporting products to Cuba to dock in U.S. ports.

Florida Democratic Senator Bob Graham and Republican Senator Connie Mack sent a similar bill to the U.S. Senate last week.

11 April TV Marti Broadcast Called 'Escalation'

FL1204184090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] If, according to the children's story, Pinocchio's nose grew when he lied, the infamous, all-powerful Uncle Sam should have a less dignified part of him grow for being stubborn [transitivo]. In recent days, senators of the U.S. Government have assured public opinion that TV Marti can be seen in our nation and that the project is not a failure. They are concealing from the U.S. taxpayer the fact that the television attack is being totally blocked by Cuban technicians moments after it is broadcast by the high-technology equipment in Florida, and they call on the public and radio broadcasters to support this monstrosity.

In recent hours, in the midst of a great fuss about alleged successes that have led these wise men to ask Congress and the President to merge Radio and TV Marti, the invading signal, in open provocation, was broadcast on channel 13 at a time when our television station was rebroadcasting the dialogue Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held with Cuban religious figures. The pretext that the United States is not violating international law has now collapsed like a house of cards, since the regular

signal of Tele Rebelde on its official frequency, Channel 13, was interfered with for 35 minutes from the baloon-stat at Cudjoe Key.

The patience and moderation shown by Cuba towards the irresponsible and disrespectful spirit of this attack has its limits. However, after 45 hours of broadcasts over two weeks, the result of the vaunted Yankee arrogance is zero. The Yankee attacker has been able to make his uncertain and battered way through the radioelectric spectrum for only a few short minutes, and at a cost of millions. The first 16 minutes of the project cost the U.S. taxpayer half a million dollars.

But Uncle Sam persists, and he has decided on an escalation, as on Wednesday [11 April], along this obstinate path. If in its triumphalist fantasies the Bush administration thinks that TV Marti could become a second Bay of Pigs, it should reread history. The Bay of Pigs was the first great defeat for Yankee imperialism in America. We exchanged the mercenaries for canned goods.

But this time there will be no exchange. Gray wooden caskets will be the witness and response to this infamy. Accepting the lessons of history, however hard they are, Mr. Sam, is better than continuing to imitate Pinocchio. Heaven forbid that in your pigheadedness you should lose something more than your nose.

U.S. Justification of TV Marti at UN Rejected

FL1304013890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Today, Cuba rejected the U.S. attempt to justify its illegal television transmissions against Cuba. Before the UN Information Committee, Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon defended Cuba's right to protect sovereignty over its airwave space.

Alarcon cited an agreement signed by Canada and the United States to protect not only the existing local radio stations in those two countries, but also each country's possible right to establish future television channels without any interference.

U.S. representative (Arthur Seagleborn) had proposed to take the Cuban protest—which was presented yesterday—to the International Telecommunications Union arguing that the TV Marti issue is a bilateral problem.

Alarcon denied the statements made by the said U.S. diplomat that telecommunications means are not included [as heard] in the economic blockade imposed by Washington on Cuba 30 years ago. The Cuban diplomat recalled regulations established by the U.S. Department of Treasury, which is in charge of controlling the trade blockade against Cuba, including regulations on television programs. Alarcon promised to present the copies of the said provisions to the UN Information Committee.

Venezuelan, Yugoslavian Condemnation of TV Marti

FL1304014390 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 90

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reynaldo Figueredo said today that the U.S. television transmissions toward Cuba violate international laws and also affect the rest of Latin America.

During the Group of Rio meeting in Hungary, the Venezuelan diplomat said: All nations have a right to information based on respect for international laws and not on unilateral actions of force.

Similarly, the Yugoslavian Foreign Ministry expressed its concern over the fact that the United States is using Cuban television frequencies without the authorization of the Cuban Government.

(Ibo Barck), spokesman of the Yugoslavian Federal Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, said that Yugoslavia, current president of the Nonaligned Movement, condemns the use of technical supremacy with subversive objectives and favors the free circulation of information as long as basic norms and international law are respected.

U.S. Accused of Double Standard in Drug Policy

FL1204213990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] One of the subjects that reflects most accurately the U.S. administration's double standard is its anti-drugs policy. This was seen in London during the recently-concluded world anti-drugs ministerial meeting.

Melvyn Levitsky, assistant secretary for narcotics matters in the United States, [title as heard] explained his government's plans to halt the growth of coca plants in Andean countries. The idea is very good, but where is the plan to stop drug consumption in his own country? The plan really does not exist although there are over 20 million habitual drug consumers in the United States and annual drug sales profits amount to $150 billion.

To get an idea of what these volumes mean, suffice it to say that the street value of 100 kg of heroine in the United States can reach $2 million and a ton of cocaine yields up to $15 million; the figure increases considerably if this drug is turned into crack.

For example in Miami, as in every big city, drugs are sold practically freely in the streets, and a dose of the extremely harmful crack is within the reach of everyone, especially of poor people. In the United States there are addicts of all ages, including the most defenseless beings, newborns. Within two years, the so-called crack babies have invaded public hospitals. One of every 10 newborns is carrying toxic substances transmitted by his mother through the placenta. The ones who are most affected have serious brain and kidney damage. In most cases, they will be physically and mentally retarded.

Faced with this situation, U.S. Government measures are yet to be seen. The United States prefers to launch cleanup campaigns in other countries' territory before cleaning up their own soil which, by the way, is pretty infected.

U.S. Warship Entering Guantanamo Bay Noted

FL1204140090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 12 Apr 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Early yesterday morning, scouts of the Border Brigade observed the U.S. Navy warship LPD-4 Austin enter the Bay of Guantanamo. The ship, which entered those naval installations at 0745 hours [1145 GMT], came from the northern coast of Honduras where, with other U.S. Navy units, it had transported some of the forces and equipment participating in the Ahuastara 90 exercises.

The LPD-4 Austin has a displacement of 17,240 tons and a crew of 420, 24 of whom are officers. It has nine LPM-6, LPM-4, and LSM-8 launches and up to six CH-46DE helicopters. Its main weapons are four 76-mm guns and two 20-mm guns. The ship can reach a speed of 21 knots.

With the arrival of the LPD-4 in the Bay of Guantanamo, the number of warships at those naval facilities again totals 10 naval units.

Talks on Scientific Cooperation End in Beijing

FL1204132190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The scientific and technical cooperation ties between China and Cuba are being expanded and intensified in specific fields, following the talks held between officials of the two countries in Beijing. The importance China grants to this cooperation was stressed by Song Jian, Chinese state councillor and minister in charge of the State Science and Technology Commission, to Rosa Elena Simeon, president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences, when he met her in the Great Hall of the People. Both mentioned the beneficial interaction in cooperation in biochemisty, electronics, biotechnology, acoustics, and laser applications, among other things. Dr. Simeon has concluded her visit to China, which began on 7 April.

Part 2 of Castro Meeting With Evangelicals

FL1304010290 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Second of two installments on President Fidel Castro's meeting with representatives of evangelical groups and the Jewish community in Havana on 2 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Castro] Regarding the meetings with the FEU [University Student Federation] Council that you mentioned, we discussed many of those thoughts. We discussed the topic of (?Christianity) a lot there. This was one of the points, because there are many different topics about this kind of teaching. There is also the topic of economics. I was thinking about the little comrade. I asked the comrade: What kind of economics are they teaching you? I said that we should intensely study the economics of capitalism. We are an island that is surrounded by capitalism everywhere. [laughter] And you need to know it. It is vital for revolutionaries like us, who have to fight, to know this. I considered this to be one of those ambushes for those of us who do not know anything. Those in the north, south, and east (?did not know) a lot of things. The students do not know what a multinational company is, what a stock market is. They do not know what certain kinds of companies are, what forms they take; the policies they use to loot us, exploit us. We have to know about it to defend ourselves from many of their tactics and strategies. It is very useful.

It is very useful. [repeats himself] There is no simple knowledge. Many authors of economics of socialism right now are saying it does not work. Do you realize that? But you said something, about scholasticism; a little can be called dogma also. Sometimes, this has been [words indistinct] and sometimes I wondered: At times have we not turned Marxism into a religion?

[Unidentified speaker] That is the worst that could happen. [laughter]

[Castro] And I say it here in front of you all. I am not speaking pejoratively against religion. [laughter] But we have turned it—we could say this—into a belief. To some degree, it has become a belief. So, that is why I say that it has taken on a certain religious nature in the sense that it has been made a belief. If it is made a belief, then it is a religion, not a political science. It is, thus, not a political doctrine. And so, he calls it scholasticism, a type of dogmatic teaching. Is that what you meant? What does that word mean? Can you explain it? [laughter] I am trying to interpret exactly.

But I was saying that much of what we discussed at that meeting was published. Things came out; some things I said about economics, the type of studies, and the things, the things [repeats himself] about teaching Marxism. This was seriously analyzed by the youth, and it is a very serious thing. Well, David [not further identified], if you wish I will say something. [applause]

It is not that I want to reduce the number of remarks, or hear the smallest amount, but it seems to me that some of the things that you could add—I assure you—I know about them already. I have a premonition about them although I have not heard them, but there must be anecdotes like that. [passage omitted]

I am very happy to have had this meeting with you today so soon after the visit to Brazil and my meeting with the believers—I think they were all Christians there, I think they were all Christians there. [repeats himself] There were representatives of churches such as yours and other

churches. Representatives of the Catholic Church were there. Actually, the majority were Catholic because Catholicism is a very widespread religion in Brazil. It has also played an important role in the years of military governments, when there were no organized forces, when there was nothing. It played an extremely important role helping people; helping the people who were in need, suffering, going through all sorts of things. The Catholic Church created grass-roots communities. It is an important, a very important social force, very combative.

Now, the meeting was ecumenical. It was not only for Catholics; other churches were represented there. The various representatives spoke there. Those people had a great impact on me. They made a tremendous impression on me. They have strength. It is seen in their enthusiasm, in their singing, in their slogans, in their tremendous combative spirit. What I saw there made a great impression on me.

I believe you are very right in your analysis of the way I expressed myself. Actually, I could not say I was forgetful; there was almost a kind of....[rephrases] I was comparing situations. I was referring basically, in that group, I was referring to the Catholics who were there and who were in the majority at that meeting. They were the ones who asked me the questions, in general everyone did; but that question responded to a concern, a question, from that majority of those who were there and who also posed to me the most difficult problems. That was one of the most difficult answers inasmuch as I had to recount a little history.

I was forced to explain the history of the problems we had had here at the start of the revolution. I was forced to be critical, which I do not want to be here. I answered that question with the greatest tact possible. I had also met with the Brazilian bishops, who are very committed to the poor in Brazil. This does not mean that all Catholic bishops have taken this position. You cannot talk about a majority or a minority, but there is a considerable group that is breaking new ground, really. There is also another group that has very conservative positions on this, that is very opposed to this kind of policy. I even saw they had to cross stormy waters to be able to maintain those positions.

There is also another issue: liberation theology is considered something subversive in the United States. In the famous Santa Fe documents—Santa Fe I and Santa Fe II—since Reagan's times it has been said that liberation theology had to be openly fought against because those were communist ideas and it was nothing more than an instrument of those ideas and, therefore, had to be openly opposed. It was portrayed as one of the great dangers, really, to imperialist domination in this hemisphere. So there are powerful interests that want to restrain, contain this movement which has enormous strength. It is strong in Brazil and in other countries. The movement does not act the same everywhere but this movement is also ecumenical. This movement of liberation theology is not only within the Catholic Church but also within the other churches.

This reminds me of the first time I had contact with church members. Well, the first time I attended an ecumenical meeting. Because of the ideas, the memories I have of my time when I attended a religious school are of a very great sectarian spirit. To even mention a meeting of Protestants, [words indistinct] Catholics, Jews was impossible. There was rather incessant preaching to us since we were in the first year in catechism, they were always trying to create in us—and I have talked about this publicly—prejudice, animosity, against the other religions, any other religion.

I think this must be related to the serious problems there are with some religions, not only with the Jewish religion. Here we have a representative of the Jews. I remember that almost all the education in religious matters that was promoted with the people—not only with us in school but with even the poor people—everything related to the Holy Week, the myths of Holy Week; I remember—and I have talked about this—they talked to us about the Jews. We did not even know who the Jews were. They said they were the worst people in the world, that they had killed God. Since I reached the age of reason, we had to be quiet at home during Holy Week. [audience laughs] We had to be still; there was total mourning because God had died.

God died on Holy Friday, then came the resurrection and all those things. As I told Frei Betto in that book—I believe it is included in Frei Betto's book—I thought Jews were black birds that make a lot of noise and live in the countryside. So for me they were [words indistinct] Imagine this in the Middle Ages, and this type of belief inculcated in a fanatical way. This would explain many of the problems that have developed throughout history: pogroms, persecution of the Jews. But let me say that at the time I was in school, there was not a lot of difference between the Jews and the others, the other religions. Each was as worthy of hell as the other. [laughter] Hell was going to be full, really. There was no possible forgiveness.

At that time it was not [words indistinct] I really think we have made a lot of progress in a relatively short period of time. There is greater understanding. Here we have talked about the lack of understanding between Marxists and Christians. And it turns out that there has been a lack of understanding as serious as this or worse between one Christian and another, and another, and another. Especially, the education I received in religious matters was characterized by much sectarianism. This is the reality.

I began to see this in my visit to Chile in 1973. I am not going to relate the history of the problems we had. First, they were not fundamentally with the other denominations; we had these problems with the Catholic Church. I have explained the history, the social reasons. Many of

the people who had the opportunity of becoming a Catholic did so through the religious teaching in private schools. Private schools were the schools of the people who had the most money. For that reason, I myself was able to go to one of those schools, La Salle, then the Colegio de Dolores, and Colegio Belen. There were many schools of this kind. They were for the middle class and up.

To tell you the truth, there was discrimination of another kind. Colegio La Salle, the brothers of La Salle, were more democratic and had some black students; but Colegio Belen, in spite of how rebellious the Jesuits traditionally are—they have often been involved in great political movements—did not accept black students. This was simply a manifestation of discrimination that also answered to the culture of that social class.

At the time of the revolution, in the rural areas—and I have said this many times—there was not a single Catholic Church. There were none, anywhere on the island. They were not in the poor neighborhoods. It was only in these circles where religious education was really or basically received. At the time of the revolution, I remember that many classmates of mine.... [rephases] Where are my classmates? There are a few somewhere, survivors, like Cosme Ordonez, a doctor in one of the polyclincs in Plaza, a prominent director of a clinic. I have the pleasure of knowing there are three or four. Somewhere around Las Tunas I ran into some who were in Colegio de Dolores, and so forth. However, there are very few. There were clashes with all of them at the beginning because of the revolutionary laws, because they were in those sectors—landowners, bankers, businessmen, owners of everything. They tried to use the church, that church, against the revolution.

Well, I have already explained how the first period passed, it was all quite traumatic. [Words indistinct] a revolution, extremism, radicalism, things typical of revolutions in their initial stages. That was traumatic. It created an unpleasant image. It created an unpleasant situation.

I have also told how a papal nuncio was precisely the one who helped to begin to overcome those problems. But as I also said, I think I explained it in Brazil, the manner in which we approached the problem had a great influence. We approached the problem very carefully, with a lot of wisdom. We did not want the revolution to take on in the eyes of the world an antireligious nature [words indistinct] revolutionary sense, because if that happened it would have helped imperialism, especially in Latin America at that time.

I was aware that the church, the one with which we had the major conflicts, was not strong among the poor in Cuba, among the simple people. It was strong in the sector that was in conflict with the revolution. However, in other places in Latin America it is obvious that the church [passage indistinct] we had seen it. I said everything that allows the revolution to be considered an enemy of religion is a benefit, a favor, a service that is being done to imperialism; and harms the cause of the liberation of the people in Latin America. This is a problem that has always concerned us.

And that is why we handled all those problems with tremendous tact, and we tried to avoid them, as I have publicly explained. Everyone knows what has happened with all revolutions, almost always, starting with the French Revolution. Some terrible conflicts occurred between the Revolution and the Catholic Church, which was the dominant one. In the famous estates general where there were nobles; the middle classes on the one hand; the common people as they were called; there was also the clergy. The clergy was divided. The nobility was also divided a little. However, when part of the clergy joined with the common people it gave them the majority. Part of the clergy joined the side of the revolution, another part opposed the revolution, and there was a tremendous class conflict with many people executed.

The Spanish Civil War—everyone remembers; many people were executed. This also happened in the Mexican Revolution and the Russian Revolution. So there has not been a single revolution in which the conflicts have not been bloody, with the exception of a profound revolution where this conflict that arose for the reasons I have explained was not bloody. Not one drop of blood was shed. What happened in all the other revolutionary processes did not happen in this case. We are going to call a revolution, what a revolution is: a total, radical, violent change in society. We reached a state of coexistence, so to speak.

We did not have these problems with the churches you all represent. There may have been cases, situations, as we know, but it never came to...[rephrases] it never was—I say it sincerely—we never had this attitude, in spite of private or personal positions of people. This idea of conflict with the churches that you all represent is not present in my recollection of history. This is the reality. It was completely the opposite, as has been said here.

And it happened, well, we cannot be exempt from blame. We do not claim to be. If one analyzes it coldly, it could be said that we are somewhat to blame for this, for the development [words indistinct] situation that these problems had not been resolved before. The thing is that we were a little one-sided. We subordinated a little what we had to do and what we should have done to relations we had had with one church. And this became a major concern because of the way that church was organized, because of its nature as an international organization with a rather rigorous discipline. It turned into an international conflict for the revolution. We had the imperialists as the main enemy there.

Perhaps we exaggerated but we paid a lot of attention to the idea that it was incompatible, it would seem incompatible, to be a party member and have religious beliefs. We were mainly thinking of the believers of that church.

We said, well, many of them left; there is a question of es' ntial faithfulness towards the country, towards the revolution. We had to choose between one thing and another. A situation of distrust developed. This was not a matter of principle, and we had no reason to introduce it. However it was a practical reason in which we said.... [changes thought] Remember how that struggle was; there were 300 counterrevolutionary organizations in the country. Remember all the problems—the Bay of Pigs, the October crisis, whether we would survive or not—those problems took up the main ideas, and really that situation led to a state of coexistence. We reached a state of coexistence in many areas. The conditions were not created; we were not able to handle an analysis of this situation, to provide a solution for this problem, at a given time.

This is why I tell you that in 1971 or 1972; when did I visit there, 1971?—in Chile I ran into the first group that included pastors and priests. It was a greatly varied group. There were Catholics among them. This is what most caught my attention. We had that first meeting and exchange of views in Chile. A book was published containing the discussion we held.

[Unidentified speaker] [Passage indistinct].

[Castro] Later in Jamaica, all the talks [words indistinct] were published. I think this was a very positive thing we did. We adopted a different attitude. We always had the hope that this could have had an effect and would also be our message for everyone, but also our message for that church with which we had had the initial conflicts. One thing happened about 10 years later, then the other thing.

This should not be considered the only reason. This should not be considered the only reason. [repeats himself] This had a decisive influence. Later I felt envious when I saw in other revolutionary processes how there was a rapprochement. A very great rapprochement between Christians and revolutionaries took place in Nicaragua and in El Salvador. I think this has been a result of the evolution in thinking in this direction. I think that the existence of the Cuban revolution, the fact that it occurred, had a great influence on the development of this thinking about liberation theology in Latin America. In fact it arose several years after the triumph of the revolution.

I said that this is not the only factor. We were the first, the first country where the revolution occurred. There was nothing similar to what we know today as a trend in religious feeling in Latin America. There was also outside influence regarding our situation in the country. There was the influence not so much from outside, but the influence of the traditions of the revolutionary movement; from the Russian Revolution, from the struggles of the Marxists in the last century, the great and close relationship there was in feudalism, and later when capitalism developed, with the dominant church. In this sense the church imitates the existing regime.

We all are aware of history. I do not have to repeat it. We know what happened in the feudal age. We also know what happened in the beginning, in the most ancient times; then what happened in the feudal age; then what happened in the capitalist age. This association arose with the prevailing social system, which was a class system; with social injustice. That is the origin; every revolutionary, socialist movement appears from that struggle. It acquires quite a strong antireligious slant. It acquired it. This is a true fact.

Antireligious ideas developed a lot even on the theoretical level. That famous phrase—I do not remember if it was Marx or Lenin—in the "Communist Manifesto," about the opium of the people, that phrase gained strength. It almost became a principle. This was because of a historical situation, as I explained in Frei Betto's book. We must say that these two factors joined together: the historical tradition and the practical experiences we had here. One thing was compounded by the other.

As if we in practice were to discover the same thing that the history of the last century, the history of the revolutionary movement, tells us. To tell you the truth I should say these factors were present and [word indistinct] have had an influence. When did we begin to discover this? We began to discover it precisely with the beginning of the Cuban revolution, based on this movement that arose in Latin America about a commitment to the poor. Another image, another facet, began to arise.

We began to discover other realities. Then we began to talk about alliances between Marxists and Christians. We have been talking about this since Chile. I think that I was the first socialist political leader to talk about this. That is how it was. It is not a personal merit but a historical coincidence. Since the revolution arose and this movement arose in Latin America, we looked on it with a great deal of sympathy and said this had a tremendous revolutionary potential. This really can make social changes possible. This can make it possible to liberate the Latin American peoples from imperialist domination, from exploitation of man. This can bring justice. This was brought up in 1971 and we are in 1990. This was 19 years ago.

The same idea continued to be brought up. As I said, the idea of alliance was put into practice in Nicaragua and other places. When I met Frei Betto... [changes thought] I met Frei Betto in Nicaragua and I explained to him the problems we have here. Of course, he is Catholic. I explained to him the problems we have. I also met with other leaders. I met Lula in 1980 in Managua, at the first anniversary of the Sandinist victory. Frei Betto had the idea of doing an interview to discuss these problems. He knew and had read the previous dialogues I had had with a group of Christians, an ecumenical group. There were also Catholics at that meeting with Christians.

He insisted on this idea and had the interview; I agreed to grant the interview to talk to him about all these problems. Now I should say that this was the first case in

which a leader of a socialist country discussed the problem of religion with a different concept, with different ideas, with the idea of unity, with the idea of an alliance between Christians and Marxists. I explained the reasons extensively.

I want you to know that that book had a great influence on many events. It had great political influence on the subsequent aproach to these problems. This book has been translated, even into Chinese. It has been translated into Persian, into all languages. I have met with Moslems visiting here who have talked about my book. They have read it. They almost know it by heart. These are Moslem revolutionary people, such as the Iranians who overthrew the Shah, very radical. I have met these people, and they have read the book. They have received these ideas with great approval, great satisfaction, because this can be applied to all religious beliefs; whether Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, or atheist. Atheism has also become—can I say it?—a religion. Do you see? [laughter] A religion of not believing.

I say that this book that was done with Frei Betto [words indistinct] a totally new approach to the problem, which had never been done. He even asked me about the famous phrase, and I said, well, it could be poison or a wonderful medicine, depending on what meaning is given to this feeling. If religious feeling is put in opposition to social change, then it does become an opium, but if it is joined to the struggle for social change then it is a wonderful medicine. I tried to explain what, in my opinion, were the historical origins for arriving at that situation. I would say that based on these dialogues with Christians I have had since 1971 and the interview with Frei Betto, there has been a new approach. A totally new approach appeared almost 20 years ago.

Well, with the problems we had had, this was useless. Our message really was useless. I say it with a feeling of frustration. I am not referring to you. For a long time you had a different attitude toward the revolution. Many Catholics also did, but we followed this policy because we were consistent in practice also with the ideas we have presented.

That entailed a historic decision. This is the reality. This is the position. In the meeting with the Christians there I said: I will not hesitate to tell the truth. Because they asked for the answer to a really very difficult question when they simply asked why believers cannot be party members. It is a very difficult question to answer simply because this is discrimination. Yes. How can it be explained to those people, fervent revolutionaries? How can it be explained?

This is why the first thing I said regarding this question was: If they were you, they would have become members of the party a long time ago. At that time my subconscious was responding to the entire drama of the problem we had had. That is what I told them. Really, I think there are people worthy of being in the best party. [Words indistinct] that response but it is not that I made that up. If I have been proposing the idea of the alliance between Christians and Marxists, the only thing consistent with this is that we are truly united, that we are true allies. We are working for the same cause. [passage omitted]

I am already aware that this problem must be solved. I have told several comrades. I told [Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, Secretary Carlos] Aldana, I have told [PCC Politburo member Esteban] Lazo, who is with me. I have said, look at this problem, a local thing of ours. Because of a partial problem that we have had at a given time, there have been no right circumstances to facilitate a solution for us. We are left with this problem hanging over us. It is a problem of principle because it is a problem [words indistinct] has to be solved and this is the historic turning point. It is the best time because it is a difficult time; it is a time of great risk, a time in which things are collapsing over there and the imperialists are becoming bolder. They are becoming more arrogant than ever, more scornful than ever. They think they can squash us like a cockroach. This is a difficult moment, and why do we not define this? Why do we not define it?

Of course, it is not that we have not been thinking about this, because this idea is in the document that was published. But I say, will we have to wait for the congress to present it there or do we have to start bringing it up as of now? In fact, I brought it up there but I expanded more on it during the speech. I said that this problem must be solved.

Naturally, I did not want—the time did not seem right at the moment —to go into depth on this the way I am doing with you. Perhaps we must go into depth on this problem later so that everyone will assume their responsibilities. Because I say: I ask myself: Why do the rest of the believers who have been loyal to the country, who have defended the revolution enthusiastically and sincerely, have to pay the consequences of this problem? [applause] This is one of the questions I ask myself. However, I ask another one. Why do so many very good Catholic followers—because there are those who are hardworking, exemplary—also have to pay the consequences of a certain line? Because we know how each of the institutions is. We know how it is. I do not want to be critical. I do not really want this to become a reason for criticism, to hurt other people here or elsewhere in the world, but it is clear. It is clear. Why do the believers who are good, who are revolutionaries, who are militia members, [words indistinct] for the country, also have to suffer the consequences of this situation?

I say we must have another approach to this issue. We must state the truth and state it clearly, and take another approach. Of course, no one is forced to join the party. It is entirely voluntary. The party also demands that certain requirements be met for a revolutionary to join. That is something else. But exclusion from the party is discrimination. I believe that it is a matter of principle that we should solve, because it is the party, the party is the one that has to guarantee the unity of all the people.

We are not living in paradise. We are living in a world full of all kinds of problems, full of risks, full of threats. We, a small country threatened by a superpower, need unity. If we have the idea that we should have a party, consequently, it should be a party for all, of rights for all. [applause]

We must also be consistent with all things that we have approved in our Constitution. Our Constitution rejects any kind of discrimination—it is clear—whether based on skin color, sex, or belief. What meaning does it have then to try to conduct a social project? We have been clear. Ours has been the fairest society that can be imagined, the most humane that can be imagined, which is what unites us. What sense does this discrimination against believers have?

I think that within this process of rectification, one of the important things we have to deal with is that. And not only because one person [words indistinct] the party [words indistint] or not or a specific role, but because there are many believers who are not members of a church, of a given church, but who have their own beliefs. They are animists. We even had here the spiritual leader of the Yoruba people. How many beliefs do people have? Let us take those who go to the processions for Saint Lazarus. They go to the Saint Lazarus processions. They have their beliefs. Let us take those who were not members of any specific church, but that somebody, that their relatives inculcated a certain belief in them or they did it on their own. Well, that person must feel bad. He must feel bad in a situation in which believers are discriminated against. [Words indistinct] and looked upon with a certain contempt and forced to make a double effort [words indistinct] revolution [applause].

They are discriminated against in their homeland, in their country, and in their revolution. And they defend their the homeland [words indistinct] they are willing to surrender their lives. They defend the revolution. It is a situation that cannot continue. The issue is that what should divide us is not whether one is a believer or not. What should divide us [corrects himself] what we should ask ourselves is whether we are revolutionaries or not. [applause]

[Words indistinct] it is really absurd, senseless, and foolish, because the other thing [whether one is a revolutionary or not] is what can really separate one Cuban from another—the cause, what I just said before, and not beliefs. If someone says: I do not believe in anything; if someone is an atheist, and yet is a revolutionary, why should we make a distinction between atheists or nonbelievers and believers? There is no reason for that to become an obstacle. On the contrary, it becomes something that is absolutely discriminatory when it exists.

So that is the reason. [Words indistinct] problems that there may be. I was saying to people: After all, religion and churches are part of the culture of a people. We have repaired churches. [Words indistinct] a city without temples [words indistinct]. In other words, their ways not only [passage indistinct] I believe that in culture. [Words indistinct] because at that moment we have a [words indistinct].

Well, all that is neither reasonable nor rational. But, but [repeats himself] [word indistinct] that comes out of that situation and of that atmosphere of mistrust that was created for a given reason and then became a general standard that contributed to the lack of understanding. This type of division should not exist because it contradicts what we have been preaching for a very long time. I view society from a different perspective. I imagine a society that is totally free from any kind of discrimination. I imagine a united country because we have to be united. If we are not united, they will swallow us. But we will be even more united. As the comrade from Colon said: They we will act the same with or without changes, but it is better with changes. [applause]

We must be truly united. We must be truly united [repeats himself]. That other thing [division] is foolish. Of course, I would say that you have [word indistinct] twice as much [words indistinct] like those who greeted me in Brazil have. Despite that and although I cannot tell you: Listen, you are party members as of now, although I must admit that there is a situation [words indistinct] give us support and understanding. You know that we have to overcome certain problems, but you do not even demand that we solve those problems. You support us. And I am sure that your attitude not only increases unity but also the solidarity among all those progressive, revolutionary forces that are concerned about social changes and justice. You contribute to increasing that solidarity and satisfaction. I am sure that those over there [words indistinct] that this problem is going to be solved here. [Passage indistinct]. Thus, [words indistinct] but you will feel that you have made your contribution, because every little bit helps.

[Words indistinct] that meeting [words indistinct] here, it will surely have to be done tactfully [words indistinct] important turning point, because it coincided with this whole local situation, with this collapse. They [not further identified] were also very encouraged by the visit to Brazil. After all, they are revolutionaries. And at present, all revolutionaries have been harshly attacked all over the world. And one wonders what is going to happen with socialism. One wonders about the destiny of socialism [word indistinct]. And obviously, there is no future without socialism. It is not difficult to prove that. There is no future without socialism. If we are going to be left with this garbage capitalism [words indistinct] years, it would be better—well—that the Apocalypse comes before that happens. [crowd laughs] You must know more about the Apocalypse than I do.

Let us take the example of Latin America. It is incredible when one examines data coming from the various Latin American countries. It is truly amazing. Capitalism functions in those countries and it functions in the way that you know it functions. It works in the same way that it works in the United States, where there are millions of

homeless people, thousands of homeless kids without parents or anything. Those phenomena exist there. We see these scenes combined with extreme levels of poverty. We see those scenes everywhere. Then there is mendicancy, the drug problem, prostitution, and all other vices. Those vices are found among even the wealthiest people. And if this is the case with the capitalist world powers—and their mechanisms really work there because they support each other; in other words, the dollar supports the yen, the German mark supports the Italian lira, the British pound, etc. They support each other every time they have a problem, a deficit, or something. No one, however, supports Latin American currencies. These currencies inflate like a balloon and then explode. These countries have reached amazing inflation rates. In one year, inflation went up to 1,500 [not further specified] in Brazil. In Argentina it went up to 3,000 and something in one year. Who knows what it is like in Peru.

Latin American countries do not really have any plans. One day they invent one thing and the next they invent something else. They simply cannot solve their problems. No strong currency supports them when inflation begins to rise in these countries. Money goes out of those countries through all channels because people who hold bank accounts in local currencies know that next month that money will be worth half of what it is worth now. Thus, they run to their banks, get their money, and take it to a country with a strong currency. What are those governments going to ask from a man who has 10,000; 50,000; 1,000, or whatever? [currency not specified]

And if one of those governments raises its interest rates too high, to prevent people from taking their money out of the country, then nobody invests in industries. People then begin investing in speculative businesses to make more money based on [words indistinct]. It is a complete disaster for the economy. Capitalism does not solve the problems of any Third World country unless it is a country to which resources are granted as a gift, as is the case of some Asian countries. Multinationals were sent to countries with very repressive regimes, for example.

The so-called neoliberal measures partiallt worked in Chile. They resulted in positive economic rates. This grew much [words indistinct] nobody. Well, last year the Inter-American Development Bank sent money to Chile, with approximately 12 million inhabitants, instead of sending it to Brazil, that has 140 million inhabitants and has much greater need of development works than Chile. [Words indistinct]. They have a ferocious [words indistinct]. Workers cannot protest. Workers cannot demand improvements, and therefore the situation is of course.... [changes thought] How much do those workers earn? I think I have seen some information on that in the newspapers. I think they earn about $60 dollars [not further specified]. At present, 40 percent of the population owns 12 percent of the [word indistinct]. The masses suffer greatly. They do not have enough money to do anything. In other words, those capitalist theories have to be applied by a very repressive regime to be successful. Those regimes have to receive privileged aid and must also starve their people to death.

One can read about those things. But there is no future there. One can breathe democracy all through Latin America, but Latin America lacks firm economic foundations. Nobody knows where these countries are heading in view of their current situation. And one is amazed after one examines those countries' social statistics. They have an average infant mortality of 65 percent over 1,000. [not further specified] Some have more, some have less, but that is the average. Their infant-mortality rate of children between zero and five years of age is 85 percent. That rate is six times more than the Cuban infant-mortality rate gentlemen. Amazing!

And then there is the problem of education. We have almost 300,000 teachers. When I talked to them [the Brazilians] about our education level and indexes I told them: It is a better education than the one offered in the United States. We have less illiterate people, of both the functional and the nonfunctional kind.

There is also the situation of women in Cuba. I told them that women represent almost 58 percent of our technical force; around 50 something. I mean, 61 or 62 percent of the population attending our preuniversity schools are women, and they represent 57 percent of our university population. In other words, there is an increasing participation of women in the country's technical field.

I also spoke to them about our day-care centers, our semiboarding schools, our scholarship schools, and especially about our special-education schools. We have the capacity for 80,000 special students. They cannot even dream of that. The family-doctor program is something they cannot even dream about. We have a country free from beggars, prostitution, and drugs. Well, I am not speaking in absolute terms, but what I am saying is that those phenomena are manifested to a minimum here in Cuba. We have amazing health levels. Those countries cannot even dream of these things. The Brazilian intellectuals and Christians were amazed at this, because these things are their day-to-day struggle.

I talked to the mayor of Sao Paulo, the most industrialized city in Latin America, and she told me: We have 300,000 kids who cannot go to school. She said 300,000 children. And we are talking about the most industrialized and wealthiest country in Latin America. And she told me: We have areas of 3 million inhabitants without a single hospital.

Thus, when one compares all those rates, for example unemployment.... [changes thought] obviously we have very large personnel rosters. But they also have much larger personnel rosters there! [crowd laughs] The only difference is that they fix those roster problems by laying off all kinds of people. And that is it. We, we go slowly. If we have too many people working in a hospital, we wait until we expand the hospital and keep them on our rosters. We do not dismiss anybody. We do not even send people home while still paying them their salary

because a man who feels useless, a man who feels that his work is good for nothing; feels humiliated, bitter, and unfortunate. Thus, we prefer to keep people on our inflated personnel rosters until we can tell them: [words indistinct]. It would probably be more useful for us to dismiss those workers and continue to pay them their salaries, but we would be humiliating them. Thus, we must know how to do things to avoid humiliating people and to avoid leaving people unprotected.

Many of those countries lack social security services. They have nothing. Cities grow in a totally disorderly manner. People go and build houses here and there and then [words indistinct] full of those things, because they then start improving their situations. They start off building cardboard houses, but as soon as they get a chance, they replace the cardboard with bricks. Cities grow in the midst of absolute disorder. Sao Paulo has approximately 17 million inhabitants. You should see that city. It is absolute madness. You can imagine the kind of social and human problems that a city with 17 million people has. Well, try to imagine what kind of problems it will have with 30 million people. People spend most of their time going from one place to the other. They spend hours moving from one place to the other. There is no order and there cannot be. There is no way to have proper potable-water systems, power system, and hospital services in a city that grows at that pace and in such a disorderly manner. The streets [five-second break in reception] the New York skyscrapers [seven-second break in reception].

Gentlemen, they [not further identified] have brought us a social model that is unsustainable. If that model were applied in China, in India, well, but the model brought by those capitalist, developed countries is being applied in Latin America. And these countries are a major disaster. And they are increasingly disastrous. There is too much alienation. There are thousands of homeless kids. I believe that there are approximately 30 million homeless kids. I almost refused to accept the figures they gave me in Brazil. They have estimated that they have 20 something million homeless kids. You can imagine the kind of life those kids have. There are millions of kids going around homeless in those Latin American cities. What kind of future can they have?

Capitalism will never solve any of those problems. I said: Capitalism will not solve your problems. And I said that very carefully to avoid being accused of subversion. [crowd laughs] I gave them some data. But there is no distribution of wealth there. No one is concerned about solving those problems. People are incredibly unprotected there, and even in highly developed cities and countries. And I saw those big, developed cities. I gave them the example of what [words indistinct] two years. They have gained more in one year than in three centuries. From the net value of their gains, we would have to substract, however, [seven-second break in reception].

...Of how they are fighting inflation, because inflation has become a monster in those countries. And they cannot do anything with their free-price and market economy because of their inflation rates. Thus, norms, regulated distribution is 10 times more preferable, because if, when all is said and done, a country needs 10,000 teachers [two-second break in reception] when inflation appears, because each teacher here has more or less his or her norm.

Obviously, we always have to seek incentives for salaries. For example, we are always looking for ways to collect money from nonessential areas. We do not dare collect money from our milk production or from any of our staple items. We collect money from rum and tobacco production and from other luxury items. You understand this concept better than anyone else—you have to understand this better than anyone else—because you know how superfluous, senseless, and inhuman those luxury items are. Capitalism does not solve the problems of the Third World. They have to implement a programmed economy. They have to invest every single penny in a strictly honest manner and in the right areas, because they will always have one-fifth of what they need to invest and it is not possible to invest that one-fifth in whatever they want. They have to create a rigorous investment program to guarantee development and solve the various problems.

This cannot be done in capitalism. I tell them [not specified] all the time, we have solved in 30 years what you have not solved in 300. We experienced some delays because of the phenomena I have explained. We stopped building child-care centers. Now the country is doing more with fewer resources. I am waiting for the day in which we can say we have 85,000 slots available for special education schools, when all of them are available. For Latin America this is a dream for the year 3000. [crowd laughs] This is regarding special education schools. Not to mention child-care centers, not to mention the some 1 million students—between the ones who who stay all day and the ones who stay part of the day—for each 10 million people. This makes it so easy for the student, for the family, the mother, the woman to join society.

When I mention our social progress I say the program for women is no longer a project, it is an objective reality. Women have training, a certain degree of education. They are essential. They are taking the lead in many things because of their own merits. It is not a matter of good wishes, of the noble program of giving opportunities to women [words indistinct]. It is unavoidable that it has it [crowd laughs]. It has it even if it does not want it. [Passage indistinct]. I mentioned a few of these things to the intellectuals, to the Christians and they were amazed. This causes amazement there. Do you know what the role of women would be if there were no child-care centers, schools, scholarships, and they have to work? [Words indistinct] because life imposes it on them. Many of them are single women.

The situation causes pain, causes sadness. One can see very clearly that that has no solution. I am not talking about Lima, I have not been in Lima. It is said that in the outskirts of Lima there are some 4 or 5 million people who do not have a roof over their heads. That situation is repeated in everything in even the richest countries such as Venezuela, which has who knows how many billions of [words indistict] of oil. The city is surrounded by.... [changes thought] So it happens in even the richest countries.

A country that is as rich as Argentina and [words indistinct] at this time. I was saying that we are closely following the measures they take regarding inflation. It is terrible. Whenever there is no inflation there is recession.

I believe they are making in Brazil one of the most daring efforts to straighten the situation.

The first thing I do every day is read all the news reports because I am curious to see how they can find [words indistinct] solutions to those problems under those conditions. It is difficult, it is difficult [repeats himself] because there was strong opposition in the congress. I believe 10,000 amendments to the program have already been proposed. If one had nothing to do, it would be something to observe what was happening as if it were a movie, and see country by country how (?capitalist countries) really have no future.

For all progressive and revolutionary people this time is a bitter time, a hard and terrible time. They see capitalism and imperialism, and they really do not see a thing. This is one of the questions that is created. Many people are starting to respond to the situation.

I was saying, I did not give you my view that this political discrimination leads to all the rest of discrimination. This is where the problem lies. If he was going to join the party and it was said that he was a believer.... [changes thought] All other discriminations are present. If we put an end to this discrimination we would put an end to all the rest and [words indistinct] based on confidence and principles. [Words indistinct] we are united because we are revolutionaries. This would be based on revolutionary unity among all Cuban revolutionaries, without any type of discrimination. All would be possible. What is not possible on this basis of confidence and unity. This would be one of the best principles we could have for the defense of the country, the defense of the revolution, and the struggle for justice.

Precisely, I believe the basis from which I always parted, and I said it at the beginning of the revolution.... [changes thought] Since I had the opportunity of studying in a religious school I was able to familiarize myself with Christian teaching. I am not a sectarian but [words indistinct] during that period I was able to see many things. I acquired political consciousness and saw very clearly that socialism and communism are the ideals of a Christian who strictly abides by Christian thought. [applause]

Of course, an trend opposite to this [words indistinct] would be in contradiction to the convictions. If a man is very rich, very rich, very rich [repeat himself] he should be asked to hand over his money. [Words indistinct from a member of the audience]. He should be asked to hand over his money to help the rest. He has no right to be rich next to a poor man. There is less right to exploit the poor man, and there is no right for one to swim in a sea of abundance. You cannot imagine in what abundance he swims.

So, for a Christian there can be a true convergence of goals—you have to look for it—with a sincere socialist, a Marxist, a socialist, a communist, even this is utopian. Communists existed before Marxism. Communists existed before Leninism. Many people thought of a single society a long time ago. They were called utopians. I began being utopian. I had read nothing from Marx, or Engels, or Lenin when I started to see—while studying political economy when I was a sophomore in university—that capitalism was a disaster. I arrived at that conclusion early on when I saw the anarchy in production, overproduction, unemployment. There were a number of basic things. I started to think how society needed to be organized so it would function in a just and rational way. Not only just, but also rational. Capitalism is a terrible waste of energy and resources. There is a terrible waste of economic resources because 500 do the same thing and then three or four are left. The others go elsewhere with the money. No.

It is a system that developed and allowed the development of these few societies. They are a few that live in the consumption society. It does not solve the problems in Third World countries. It will never solve the problems of Latin America. One can categorically say this.

I believe that you have had to go through a difficult period during these 30 years—this has to be admitted—with all those social situations, [words indistinct] economic, and with revolutionaries, with the enemy.

[First unidentified speaker] We have a lot of happiness, a lot of joy at an extraordinary time [words indistinct].

[Second unidentified speaker] It has compensated.

[Castro] Yes, but it is a reality that you have been discriminated against. That political discrimination is expressed in all the other things. When we eliminate that.... [changes thought] we are going to eliminate it as soon as possible. [applause]

This is the prevailing sentiment in the party's leadership. Nobody disagrees with it. As you say, we have to do some work in persuasion with everyone. I have been doing this. [crowd laughs] I have been doing my job. I believe that this is why your own words, all that helps. One has to say it because we have to create a new awareness about this. One has to work against prejudices and things. Do not think that is always as easy. I see it in the economic and political area.

Sometimes ideas from abroad are introduced and it is not easy. There are people who are taken over by those ideas. Only time and life leads them to acknowledge how many mistakes were included in many of those ideas that came from abroad. Sometimes economic ideas—because they studied them in all those books, do not think that they only studied religious matters—economic ideas are pretty deeply rooted in many people.

It is not a matter that it is said.... [changes thought] The party is disciplined. The truth is that the party is disciplined and has the ability to understand. It will understand. It will understand. [repeats himself] It can be said that 100 percent will understand; there may be one who [words indistinct] things from books, texts from from abroad [crowd laughs] that may have more difficulty. I am convinced, I have no doubt that the members of the party, as a rule, will understand. We are many. Because in the party.... [changes thought] As I say, we have a country of communists. You can see it in all those people who are part of the contingents, the hundreds of thousands who go to fulfill internationalist missions. People do a lot of things.

One has to see that among people who do bad things there are many people doing exceilent things. Those people are communists. They are (?not) in the party. Not all communists are in the party. However, those people are going to understand.

I tell you that I have had a very good impression of this meeting. From the contact that I have had with you I feel, especially today—I began the conversation with the doctor who is taking care of the children there—as I listened to you, I see how much nobleness, how much kindness there is in your soul; how much patriotism, how much sense of justice, wishes for justice, yearning for justice. Therefore, our party gains a lot. I agree with what one of the comrades says. That there should not be [word indistinct], that nobody should hide an inner feeling. It must be very unpleasant to have a convinction, one of these feelings which does not harm anyone and can do good to many that suddenly had to hidden as if it were a sin because they are going to our hell. [crowd laughs and applauds]

It is a hell created by prejudice; it is a hell created by a lack of understanding. [Words indistinct]. You can be sure that it (?prevents) many from being happy because in the middle of [words indistinct] worries and prejudice.... [changes thought] One has the girlfriend as it happened to [Castro chuckles and audience laughs] the comrade here and the other one has the mother, the other one has an uncle, or the other one has the grandmother.

I remember when I arrived in Havana during the first days of the revolution, the first weeks; I went to see the old woman—I called my mother the old woman—and my mother's mother, my grandmother. I arrived in a building where they stayed in an apartment, the two were lying down. [Passage indistinct]. They had a number of saints and things, medals, millions of things. I saw the religious fervor they had; with what fervor, with what enthusiasm, with what hope they saw on all that. Well, this was even more so after the war. Who knows how many vows they made during the war. [crowd laughs] The miracle you talked about happened. They saw us alive there. Imagine. What harm could it do. I was always very respectful of her and her believes. All those things help one understand.

How many have a grandmother? This is really going to create a conflict, not only among revolutionaries, but among patriots, noble people, those who want justice, in the heart of families, personal, and social relations—all kinds of conflicts. You can be sure that all of us now with a more clear awareness of all this situation—that this problem we have experienced which should have been solved before, I think we are going to solve it in the best of times. And as a result of an entire process. It is going to be much more mature.

This could have been decided by a few leaders through an analysis, a committee analyzing things, a commission. However, life has basically been the one creating the conditions to finding a truly serious and profound solution. When you compare yourselves with the first Christians.... [changes thought] At least, according to what I know about the first Christians, you know; Christians were persecuted, were thrown to the lions, when Christians were treated as communists are treated now. This is how they want to treat communists even in those countries that have made a lot of changes, and over there, in the world.

I made the comparison. During the beginning of the revolutionary movement you were treated harshly, but Christians have been treated worse for centuries, for centuries. [repeats himself] You need to compare the 600 years the first Christians experienced with your 30 years. [crowd laughs and applauds]

In the end you are going to feel happy. You are going to say: Because we played the role of martyrs in something, [crowd laughs] we were firm, our faith was not weakened. You are going to be able to say: Neither our Christian faith nor our patriotic faith was weakened. [applause] It is more extraordinary: in this crossfire coming from all directions, your revolutionary faith was not weakened. [applause] Faith in socialism was not weakened. It grew. Well now it is going to grow more. [applause] [Words indistinct] many times, this has to be fixed, this has to change. Someone had to hear your prayers. [crowd laughs and applauds] They were heard in heaven and on earth. [standing ovation] [passage omitted]

Transport Ministry Reprimands Railroad Officials

FL1304032790 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 90

["Official note" issued by the Transportation Ministry; date and place not given]

[Text] A few days ago, the local media presented a report regarding a delay in the transport of potatoes toward the country's eastern provinces, which caused the loss of approximately 3,000 quintals of potatoes. The potatoes had gone bad when they arrived in Holguin Province because of the delay in the transport and unloading of various freight cars.

The transport of potatoes, which is traditionally done through the railroad system, is conducted every year. Our railroad system transports approximately 500,000 quintals every year. Thus far, we have transported about 200,000 quintals of potatoes by making and establishing efforts and priorities in accordance with the characteristics and needs of the population. The noncompliance with the established priorities for the transportation of this product, however, caused the aforementioned problem.

In accordance with a previous examination of the problem and the degree of responsibility in the matter, the following Cuban Railroad Enterprise officials are considered directly responsible for the detected irregularities and are therefore punished with the following measures, which are independent from any legal punishment resulting from this incident:

Western Division:

Jesus Nodarse Ruiz, chief of the Jovellanos Railroad Station, to be relieved of his post;

Agustin Garcia Morales, deputy chief of the Western Division Traffic Department, to work in a lower, nonsupervisory position for six months;

Enrique Carvallo Borbon, Western Division chief dispatcher, to work in a lower, nonsupervisory position for three months.

East Central Division:

Jose Perez Guerrero and Antonio Sanchez Garcia, chiefs of the Cacocun and Holguin Railroad Stations, respectively, to work in lower, nonsupervisory positions for six months;

Luis Ramirez Guerra and Luis Perez Garces, both East Central Division chief dispatchers, to work at lower, nonsupervisory positions for three months.

The Transportation Ministry and its Railroad Union have issued a severe warning to the Western and East Central Divisions Directive Councils for failing to supervise and properly control this important activity. This warning is independent of any consequences resulting from the state process by arbitration. [proceso arbitral estatal].

Health Official on Cooperation With Ecuador

FL1204151790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Jorge Antelo, Cuban first vice minister of health, has announced in Quito that our country and Ecuador will take further steps in medical cooperation with the arrival of two specialists to carry out joint projects. At the end of a 24-hour visit to Ecuador, Antelo stated to PRENSA LATINA that Cuban cooperation in fighting dengue fever and other projects were discussed in his talks with Ecuadoran Health Minister Plutarco Naranjo and other high-level officials.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Commission Ends Meeting, Optimistic on Future

FL1204160890 Bridgetown CANA in English 1314 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 11, CANA—A 15-member West Indian Commission with a two-year mandate to look at ways of deepening the regional integration movement has ended a strategy meeting here, convinced it has the ability to galvanise support among the people for the success of its work. The Commission will start its public meetings in July in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana and will travel to each member state of the Caribbean Community "to engage in a process of meaningful consultation."

"No one who is interested in speaking to us will be excluded from public forums which will be mounted in every part of our Caribbean Community," the Commission's Chairman Sir Shridath Ramphal told reporters.

The Commission which was launched in November last year in Trinidad and Tobago will look at issues such as the deepening and widening of the region's economic integration movement, aspects of political unity, the education system, and democratisation of decision-making processes, and human rights.

"We do not pretend that the issues before us are simple or that solutions are obvious. But the challenges are inescapable. How can the governments and people of the Caribbean enhance the capacities of our political and economic systems to offer every individual an equal chance for a better life....," Sir Shridath asked?

"While we have suggestions and proposals to put to you, we do not pretend to know all the answers. Whatever answers there are rest in our collective experience....," he added.

Sir Shridath said the members of the Commission at their two-day meeting here felt they had to proceed quickly with the task before them in order to ensure its sucess.

"I think.... There is a great sense of urgency that we haven't got a lot of time in the region.... Two years may sound a long time but we know it will go quickly and the world would change in a very fast way....".

Sir Shridath said the members hope "when we submit our report in 1992 that there will be a need for the governments and the non-governmental actors to take it on-board in a very serious and expeditious way."

"...The subject of the future of the West Indies into the 1990's and beyond, is (not) the subject of a long play, this is a matter that is going to call for very serious and swift attention," he said.

He added that Caribbean Government backing for the establishment of the Commission indicates "the measure of seriousness that is itself very encouraging to us."

"We are not, as it were, doing work and producing a report and putting it into a political environment that is not waiting to be acted upon.... The second thing is that the compulsion of our time will just make that inevitable," Sir Shridath said.

Antigua and Barbuda

Lester Bird Asks Nation To Shun Dishonesty

FL1204212790 Bridgetown CANA in English 2059 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 12, CANA—The April 10 announcement that a group of civil servants here was paid off to facilitate the transshipment of Israeli arms to drug lords in Colombia is the latest incident to fuel a growing perception of Antigua as the corruption capital of the eastern Caribbean.

Information so far published by the government implicates several Antiguans and a firm established here by an American resident in the April 1989 illegal transshipment. According to the Colombian Government, the arms transited Antigua and ended up on the premises of a known drug kingpin.

Politicians and diplomats in this region privately joke that you can pay-off someone in Antigua to achieve virtually any ends. The Antigua deputy prime minister, Lester Bird, acknowledged the gravity of the problem when he addressed a recent youth rally here.

"Antiguans and Barbudans everywhere have had to face a barrage of accusations that the country is a cesspool of corruption; that iniquity is almost the order of the day; that behind the facade of rapid development, there is an ugly picture of back-biting, political bickering and self-interest," Bird told the meeting April 9. He was imploring the youth to invest in efforts to erase the stigma.

Bird intimated that it was not only run-of-the-mill civil servants who were involved. He said he had no doubt that "the good repute of Antigua and Barbuda has been sullied by irresponsible and unacceptable actions by a few people in significant positions in the country." Bird is spearheading official efforts to get to the bottom of this latest incident.

"I believe a prima facie case has been established pointing to wrong-doing by several persons in Antigua and by a company purported to be established in Antigua...," he said in a letter to Prime Minister Vere Bird Snr., calling for a full judicial inquiry into the matter. The letter, copied to Governor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs, did not give the names of the locals, but said the Colombian Government reported the arms from Israel were discovered on the property of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, "one of the world's most notorious narcotics traffickers."

The deputy prime minister, who heads an investigating committee established April 6 when Antigua was notified of the affair, said evidence gathered has been handed over to the police. Published information here indicates the arms were shipped from Haifa on the "N/V Elsa Tholstrup of the shipping line Svendborg Enterprise-Dinamarca," and arrived in Antigua on April 24 last year.

The deputy prime minister has denied that the Antiguan Government or the Defence Force ordered or paid for the unspecified amount of arms. "It is clear therefore that the Israeli government was misled," Lester Bird wrote.

He said the arms were consigned to a fake address in the capital, St. John's, and they were transshipped the same day to Santa Marta in Colombia, "with the collaboration of several persons in Antigua". In his April 9 speech, Lester Bird had fingered "three young customs officers" whom he said "were obviously lured by dirty money into facilitating the transshipment..."

He added then: "It also appears that others at a higher level may have been involved," but gave no further details.

Allegations of corruption have dogged this country for nearly a decade now. In June 1982—less than a year after the country achieved its political independence from Britain—the Caribbean Conference of Churches' newspaper, CARIBBEAN CONTACT, called for a "public anti-corruption probe" in Antigua and Barbuda.

In an editorial, the Barbados-based paper spoke of "increasingly credible" reports in and out of Antigua of governmental corruption. It mentioned in particular "deals for official silence relating to mafia-type financiers like American Robert Vesco and the abuse of Antigua by South Africa for weapons testing."

Vesco, who was wanted in the United States in connection with a 22 million dollar fraud, surfaced in Antigua in 1982, reportedly making plans to set up a bank and

casino. The government acknowledged his presence, but little else, and, according to critics, did not report it to the American authorities.

CARIBBEAN CONTACT had quoted South African commandant, P.G. Marai, chairman of Armscor, a Pretoria arms agency, as saying that in 1978 and 1979 Antigua was used by South Africa in connection with tests by the Space Research Corporation (SRC) of a 155mm gun capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The paper said that when it contacted the Antigua Government for comment, the minister of information said his administration regretted that Antigua was utilised by SRC "to assist this reprehensible (South African) regime" and that SRC had been accepted here in good faith.

Vere Bird Jnr, like Lester, a son of the prime minister, was removed from the aviation portfolio in a January 1, 1987 reshuffle, in the wake of widespread allegations of corruption linked to his ministry. He was directly responsible for a controversial US11 million dollar airport rehabilitation project, the cost of which, the opposition contended, was inflated three to four times the original budget.

A government-appointed probe linked Bird Jr with irregularities, and said he was in a position to feather his own nest from the project. A year later, the Antigua and Barbuda ambassador to the United Nations, Lloydstone Jacobs, was forced out of his job by the U.S government, amid allegations of money laundering and passport fraud.

Since the start of this year, the twin-island state has faced criticism of corruption from at least two cabinet ministers and the church.

In February, Education Minister Reuben Harris was joined by Agriculture Minister Hilroy Humphreys in suggesting there was corruption in a deal to allocate 400 acres of crown lands to a group of Hong Kong investors to build a golf course.

Lester Bird denied there was any corruption, invited Harris to present the evidence or do the honourable thing—a veiled invitation to resign from the government. "I do not believe that any cabinet should have the right to dispose of 400 acres of crown land to anybody without prior parliamentary debate and approval," opposition leader Baldwin Spencer commented.

Some also see Antigua and Barbuda as a place to make a quick buck through prostitution and drug trafficking. Coming out of a church-led protest, a 12-member independent commission is currently probing allegations of prostitution and drug trafficking here. The commission, made up of representatives of political organisations, trade unions and private sector bodies, will sit for nine months and then present its recommendations to the government.

Against this background, the charge of Lester Bird to the youth could well be seen here as a charge to the nation:

"I would like you to help build a better Antigua and Barbuda...Where dishonesty is not a norm, but an exception; where the dignity of the country is upheld and pride in ourselves is an unyielding principle."

Bermuda

Thatcher Arrives for Summit Meeting With Bush

FL1204175790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1659 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Report by Michele Lawrence]

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, April 12, CANA—British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew into Bermuda on Thursday [12 April] aboard a Royal Air Force jet, and was met at the civil air terminal in St. George's by Premier John Swan, Governor Sir Desmond Langley, and an honour guard of Bermuda Regiment soldiers.

Thatcher, in Britian's oldest colony for talks with U.S. President George Bush, will be here for three days, during which she will stay at Government House with Sir Desmond and Lady Langley. Activities planned for the visit include courtesy calls on a number of local dignitaries, a visit to the islands's historic Royal Naval Dockyard, and participation in the island's longstanding Good Friday tradition kite flying.

She and Bush, who will arrive on Friday [13 April], will be presented with custom-made red, white, and blue versions of the traditional wood and tissue paper Bermuda kites, and will attend a kite flying exhibition at Government House during the afternoon.

Security for the summit is incredibly tight not so much for Thatcher, but for the U.S. President, whose visit here has been preceded by a horde of Secret Service agents and U.S. Navy helicopter gunships. Both leaders have had special armour-plated cars flown in for the event—a Jaguar for Thatcher and an official limousine for Bush.

The two leaders are expected to discuss a wide range of world affairs, focusing primarily on German reunification and developments in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since they met last October. They will confer at Government House for a total of about three and a half hours, in two separate sessions on Friday.

"It is an important time to be meeting given the exceptional state of changes that are taking place in the world," said a spokesman for Thatcher.

The British press, however, were describing her Bermuda visit as a "short break" from troubles at home that have left her popularity and that of her Conservative party at an all-time low. But she will face demonstrations here by anti-apartheid campaigners protesting British policy rules that prevent Bermuda imposing its own sanctions against the racist South African regime.

Social events, such as Thatcher's planned boat ride to dockyard on Thursday afternoon, could be marred by bad weather. Forecasters are predicting wind up to 28 knots and a 70-percent chance of rain, increasing to a 90-percent chance of rain by this evening.

Haiti

Political Parties Hold News Conference 10 April

FL1204160990 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The Union of Democratic Patriots [UPD] and the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector [SNJJD] set forth their position on the nation's current juncture at a news conference they held yesterday at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza Hotel]. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sylvan Jolibois, who acted as spokesman for the SNJJD, declared they had not supported the choice of a member of the Court of Cassation to replace the former military government of General Prosper Avril. Dr. Jolibois said that there are several political leaders now within the Assembly for Concerted Action [AC] who used to be intimate with the former government. Dr. Jolibois wonders who exactly is in power at present.

[Begin Jolibois recording] We do not know who is in power at present. Is it the president? Is it the State Council? Is it the Group of 12—which, contrary to what we ourselves had decided we wanted, gave an alternative to unblock the crisis....[changes thought] And as political parties and leaders, we went back to the people to prepare it to win the future elections and let a free government do its business. But now I see that there is a group of 12 or 14 that wants to set itself up as a supragovernment. On the one hand, they want to be in the provisional government, and they are also candidates for the definitive one. [end recording]

UPD leader Rockefeller Guerre criticized certain press organs in the capital for the information they are giving. Guerre said that the media are being dishonest when they report that the principal political parties have chosen a member of the Court of Cassation to replace the former government. According to Guerre, most of those political parties [the members of the AC] were not in the opposition. They wanted to go to elections under Gen. Prosper Avril, and always approved all the decisions made by the former military government.

[Begin Guerre recording] [passage omitted] The press calls them the principal opposition parties, whereas three-fourths of them were flirting with Avril. They held a dialogue with Avril. They were in Avril's forum. They applauded everything Avril did. They were in the government for 16 out of 17 months. They withdrew in the 16th month when they saw the ship was going down. Yet now, certain press organs decree to you—and I do not know for what reason—that it is the principal opposition parties that chose the alternative; as if the UPD were not, was never, an opposition party; or as if the SNJJD were not in the opposition; as if these two parties were into dancing cheek to cheek with Avril. I find this dishonest. [end recording]

Engineer Rockefeller Guerre declared that the 12 political parties in question should stop talking about the Group of 12 and should instead call on all the other political parties in Haiti and the government to sit down together around a table to prepare a program to lead the nation to democracy. [passage omitted]

Regarding the future elections in Haiti, Guerre and Jolibois declared that the electoral process was blocked back on 29 November 1987 when the Provisional Electoral Council that existed to hold proper elections in Haiti was dissolved. According to Guerre and Jolibois, the transitory dispositions of the Constitution of 1987 (?cannot) run out. Things should be resumed from the point at which the electoral process was blocked, so as to reach the end, which is to hold definitive elections in Haiti so there can be a definitive government and so the Constitution of 1987 can be applied.

Panpra Calls for Decree To Reinstate 1st CEP

FL1204194990 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The coordinating body for the Department of the West of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Panpra, which is led by Serges Gilles, has asked the government to form the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP]. In a statement issued yesterday, Panpra asks that a decree reconstituting the CEP be published this week, pointing out that the current government's principal mission is to permit honest elections in Haiti and expressing surprise that the CEP has not, after a month, been set in place.

Panpra would like to see an urgent meeting of the president, the members of the State Council, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and the ministers of interior, justice, and national defense with a view to envisioning the measures necessary to unblock the situation and restore confidence. The coordinating body of the Department of the West expresses its support of Mrs. Trouillot's government and the State Council, while, nevertheless, expressing concern over how slowly the government apparatus is functioning.

Let us note that a decree reinstating the first CEP was made public yesterday, 11 April, over National Haitian Television and that it is up to the institutions mentioned in the Constitution to send representatives to form the CEP and reconfirm their representation. The consultative council dissolved in 1987 has been replaced in this connection by the union sector. Thus, the unions are to choose a representative to be on the CEP.

PDCH Dismay Over 'Irresponsible Uprootings'

FL1204193590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, declares it is dismayed by the blocking of the public administration caused by irresponsible uprootings taking place with ulterior motives and under cover of last 13 March's wind of change. The press release adds that the PDCH is also dismayed at seeing so-called democrats squabbling among themselves to be appointed to elective positions.

In this connection, the PDCH's general secretariat reminds everyone that the current government's mission is to wind up business, provide security for lives and property, bring down the price of products of prime necessity, and hold elections in Haiti. The PDCH therefore invites democrats to be aware of the current situation and show themselves lucid on the occasion.

The PDCH's general secretariat stresses that they [not further identified] are there to denounce the misdeeds of government civil servants, propose changes [poser des changements], and make suggestions to orient the government's choice. However, the PDCH thinks reforms in the public administration are urgent and indispensable and points out that it is imperative to rid the peasants of certain section chiefs contested by the population.

France Resumes Aid, Technical Assistance

FL1204191590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] On 11 April France officially resumed its cooperation with Haiti by signing with Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot's provisional government several new donation and loan agreements for a total of $6.3 million. Last 26 January, Paris stopped all new cooperation projects with Haiti in view of the extent of human-rights violations and interruptions of public freedoms by General Avril's military regime. The regime had declared martial law 20-29 January.

A $1.3 million nonreimbursable grant has been made for the restoration of bridges in the Jeremie area, the delivery of fire-fighting equipment to Cap-Haitien, and the nation's cultural development. A $5 million loan with preferential conditions to restore the main northern road between Gonaives and Cap-Haitien has also been granted by the Central Economic Cooperation Fund.

The French Government has also unblocked the balance of nonreimburseable aid to Haiti's balance of payments of $5.30 million that was suspended in January.

Technical assistance to TNH [National Haitian Television] in the amount of 2.5 million French francs frozen in January has also been granted so TNH can get its transmitters back in shape and be an effective means for civic action with a view to the proper unfolding of the electoral process—so says the French embassy in its communique.

Jamaica

New Law Permits Accounts in Foreign Currency

FL1204201390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1951 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 12, CANA—Jamaica has moved a step closer to liberalising foreign currency transactions, with the Senate approving amendments to foreign exchange laws. The changes make it possible for some nationals here and abroad to operate foreign currency accounts in Jamaica.

Under the new law, which is expected to take effect in June, some Jamaicans resident here and abroad as well as foreigners will be allowed to open foreign currency accounts with any commercial bank. They will be exempted from the withholding tax on interest applicable to local currency accounts. Interest on the "A" account, as the facility will be known, is expected to be a percentage point above that prevailing in the country of origin. Account holders may withdraw their money whenever they wish in the currency it was deposited in.

In a bid to prevent abuse of the facility by locals, the law states that except for a specified sum, all deposits should come into the island through foreign currency cheques, telegraphic transfers and other such instruments. Exporters and other earners of foreign currency will not be eligible for that account. The facility is targeted especially at thousands of Jamaicans living abroad.

Prime Minister Michael Manley on assuming office last year express the desire to tap into vast resources held by Jamaicans abroad to assist with local development.

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister 'Expected To Sign' Japanese Loan

FL1204180390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's finance minister, Selby Wilson, is expected to sign for a U.S. 40 million dollar loan from Japan's Exim Bank next week—an agreement which acts as co-financing to a World Bank Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL). Wilson told CANA this week that he will be visiting Tokyo from April 19 to 23, when he is expected to sign the Japanese loan.

Wilson will be preceeded by a technical team which leaves on Friday [13 April] to finalise the agreement. If this is done, Wilson will sign the agreement on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago during his visit.

The U.S. 40 million dollar loan is part of an agreed-upon U.S. 84 million dollar SAL negotiated with the World Bank over the last few months. The U.S. 40 million dollar SAL and a supporting U.S. 4 million dollar technical assistance project were signed on January 25. The SAL is aimed at providing the funding for Trinidad and Tobago to diversify from its oil-based economy including liquidation and revamping of several state enterprises, improving efficiency of key public utilities, and restructuring the public sector. One of the clauses in the World Bank SAL was suspension if the Exim loan agreement did not come into effect by June 30, 1990.

Opposition Parties Present Economic Alternatives

FL1204185390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1813 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 12, CANA—Both opposition parties in Parliament have been putting forward alternatives to the government's International Monetary Fund-backed economic programmes.

"We don't like it, they took us to the IMF, they took us to the World Bank and the PNM's [People's National Movement] policy will be to pursue a course of action designed to get us out of the IMF arrangement and to get us out of the World Bank arrangement in the shortest possible time," People's National Movement leader Patrick Manning told Parliament on Wednesday [11 April].

But Basdeo Panday, leader of the United National Congress [UNC] comprising former government members, criticised both the PNM and the ruling National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) for "theorising" about the economy and arguing over who had the better economic planning document when the real issue was about mobilising human resources.

Manning outlined a five-point plan in which a PNM government would boost revenues by cutting income tax and bolstering disposable income. With this funding, Manning said his party, which ruled Trinidad for 30 years before a massive election defeat to the NAR in 1986, would negotiate with public sector unions to settle on payment of a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) removed by the government, return to government workers the 10 per cent cut from their salaries, and remove a Value Added Tax (VAT) on drugs, schoolbooks, and basic food items. Manning said the current 15 per cent VAT would also be lowered to allow the economy to expand.

"The people.... have tasted the NAR and the PNM and they will taste us in the next elections," Panday said to heckling from the government and PNM benches.

Panday said his UNC would seek to dismantle all the measures which he labelled as "anti-people" put in place by both governments.

"I want to tell (Finance Minister Selby Wilson) quite categorically that we of the UNC shall undo every single thing that the NAR has done which is inimical to interests of our people," Panday said.

"And the first one.... you have done to this society is that you have dissipated the goodwill of the people which you got on the 16th of December 1986," Panday added.

Supporters of Panday and his faction of the NAR were expelled from the party and the cabinet last year. Since then, he formed the UNC which has operated as an unofficial opposition in Parliament and is currently seeking President Noor Hassanali's recognition as the official opposition over the PNM.

Government Sends 'Strong Protest' to Panama

PA0304150890 Paris AFP in Spanish 1334 GMT 3 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 3 Apr (AFP)—The Mexican Foreign Secretariat reported early this morning that the Mexican Government has sent a "strong protest" to the Panamanian Government because of President Guillermo Endara's remarks about Mexico and its foreign secretary, Fernando Solana.

The note "stresses that references like the ones President Endara made, in addition to reflecting inadequate information about the latest meeting of the Group of Rio, are not consonant with the mutual respect that should prevail among states."

Last Saturday [31 March], Endara said during a speech that "we do not want legitimacy from a government like that of the Mexican foreign secretary, because that government resulted from electoral tricks by the PRI" [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. In addition, he accused Solana of "talking rubbish."

The day before, Solana had read the final communique of the meeting in Mexico of the Group of Rio (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay), which pointed out that "the process of democratic legitimacy in Panama requires a popular consultation without foreign meddling."

On Sunday [1 April], the Mexican Foreign Secretariat demanded explanations after stating that Solana "has made no statement whatsoever" about Panama or its authorities.

In the note, which was released early today, the Mexican Government recalled Mexico's actions during 1989 at the Organization of American States (OAS) "in favor of democracy, self-determination of peoples, and nonintervention" in Panama.

In conclusion, it says that Mexico "states that it expects the Panamanian authorities to guarantee the safety of its diplomatic mission and personnel, of the refugees under the protection of the embassy, and of Mexican nationals residing in that country."

Rafael Arosemena, former manager of the Banco Nacional de Panama, who is wanted for alleged common crimes and to whom the Panamanian authorities have denied a safe-conduct to leave Panama, has sought refuge at the Mexican Embassy in Panama.

PRI Demands Endara Apologize

PA1204140390 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 3 Apr 90 pp 1, 9

[Report by Ramon Zurita, Jose Quintero, and Leopoldo Rodriguez]

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] considers to be groundless and rude the remarks that Guillermo Endara made against the party and demanded that the Panamanian regime "apologize and give a clear and satisfactory explanation of this serious offense."

Emilio M. Gonzalez, leader of the Mexican senate, said that the legality of the government headed by Carlos Salinas de Gortari is beyond doubt, because the Mexican people legalized the country's authorities with their votes. For this reason, he said, it is impossible to agree with Endara's views.

Juan Diaz Aguirre, president of the Chamber of Deputies' Social Security Commission, said that Endara, who reached power under the sponsorship of the United States, has no moral authority to criticize the Mexican Government, which is the result of a democratic process. Although democracy in Mexico is not perfect, the Mexican people are striving to improve it.

Cristobal Arias Solis, Democratic Revolution Party [PRD] deputy for Michoacan, strongly criticized Endara "who, as everyone knows, was imposed on the government." Just knowing this, he said, is enough to prove that this person lacks moral and political authority even in the country where he has proclaimed himself president "with the help of the invading troops. His arrival in power is the result of that bloody invasion."

The leaders of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party [PFCRN] consider Endara's remarks an aggression against Mexico and supported the decision of Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales to ask the Panamanian president for a diplomatic explanation.

In a press communique, the national PRI leadership has said that Endara has no moral authority in the eyes of his people and the international community and that, for this reason, the PRI is urging the member parties of COPPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties] to express solidarity with the just cause of the Panamanian people who demand the recovery of their national sovereignty and the right to have a genuine, democratically elected government, with no foreign intervention or meddling.

The PRI communique also said: "Endara holds a purely de facto post, removed from a democratic process. Behind the Panamanian people's backs, he has sponsored the violation of human rights and the persecution, torture, imprisonment, and execution of thousands of Panamanians. He is also responsible for the violation of public liberties, the raiding of embassies, and the setting aside of the right to asylum."

The communique added: His irresponsible views confirm the rightfulness of the statements and resolutions issued by the OAS, the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Commission, the Latin American Parliament, and the Group of Rio.

The PRI document also points out the Panamanian president's ignorance—although it never refers to him as president—and added that the party and the Mexican foreign secretariat [SRE] in due time will establish the difference between the regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega and the Panamanian people's historic struggle "from which Endara is estranged."

Interviewed in his office at the Senate, Gonzalez pointed out that it is up to the foreign secretariat to act through diplomatic channels, as it is doing now. Gonzalez said, however, that the Senate supports the SRE's stand.

Asked whether this incident could lead to a break in relations between Mexico and Panama, Gonzalez said Mexico is very much interested in keeping friendly ties with all peoples of the continent and that, in the specific case of Panama, the foreign secretariat is trying to preserve harmony between the two peoples.

Concerning Endara's remarks on the Mexican electoral processes, senator Arias Solis said: "We of the PRD have said it very clearly. The electoral process is exclusive to Mexicans. We alone can say whatever has to be said about this."

Another senator, Julian Gazcon Mercado, said that asking Foreign Secretary Solana Morales for an explanation about his remarks on Panama "would be equivalent to playing along with Endara."

In addition, Diaz said that no president who believes in democracy can reach the post by any means other than free elections and that, for this reason, the accusations against the Mexican Government are nothing but Endara's political stubbornness in defending his accession to the Panamanian Government.

That Panama is no longer considered a member of the Group of Rio does not represent a frontal attack against Panama, its government, or its people. It was simply a unanimous decision of the group's members, Diaz said.

Diaz added: Endara was mercilessly imposed by invading troops who thus secured the presidential seat for a man who shamelessly makes these criticisms against a country that has never interfered with the domestic matters of other nations.

In addition, the PFCRN pointed out that Endara evidently does not speak for himself and that, destitute of moral and political authority over the Panamanian people, he is the mouthpiece for U.S. imperialism.

Finally, this party pointed out that stances like this harm Panama's relations with the rest of Latin America and that, instead of legitimizing his government, Endara is provoking Mexico into curtailing all types of relations with his country.

Official Threatens To Arrest Foreign Drug Agents

PA1204160790 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 3 Apr 90 p 13

[Report by Yolanda Aguilar and Juan Antonio Torres]

[Text] Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, 2 Apr—Javier Coello Trejo, deputy Attorney General for the Investigation and Struggle Against Drug Trafficking, said today that agents from outside investigative offices who make arrests within the national territory will be detained and turned over to the proper authorities, no matter if they belong to the DEA, Interpol, or Scotland Yard. He also announced that as of 7 April, there will be "no more helpers (godmothers) at the Federal Judicial Police [PJF]."

Coello Trejo, who is in this office with a team of 13 federal deputies, carried out an inspection visit of the local PGR [Attorney General's Office], of the PJF detention center, and of checkpoints at the 20-km point along the Pan-American highway.

At the same time, Governor Fernando Baeza Melendez spoke out in favor of jailed peasants accused of being involved in drug trafficking being given a second chance as first-time offenders, as they are "victims of ignorance and poverty."

Likewise, PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution] and PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] Federal Deputies Raul Reyes Ramirez and Victor Manuel Sarabia, respectively, said that the godmothers' work, through their arrogant attitudes, had seriously harmed not only the PJF's image they claim to represent, but also the populations' human rights; in addition, often "they have close ties with the drug traffickers," which is incongruous, they said.

During his working tour of Ciudad Juarez, Coello Trejo received a group of neighbors from a residential area who told him of their dissatisfaction because of the closeness of the PJF's command post located at the former home of drug-trafficker El Grenas. The neighbors said that PJF members have caused unrest in that residential area. Coello Trejo instructed Carlos Manuel Salas, the city's antidrug-trafficking campaign cooordinator, to move the PJF premises.

Asked whether the PGR works in coordination with the U.S. Government, Coello Trejos rejected this assertion, later saying that the "PGR works in coordination with no one; it agrees to exchange information with them, but nothing more."

Costa Rica

Virgilio Godoy Arrives for 8-Hour Visit

PA1204144890 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy has made an eight-hour visit to our country to meet with President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon and President Oscar Arias. Godoy talked about future relations between the two countries with Calderon, given that Violeta de Chamorro will be sworn in on 25 April and Calderon will be sworn in on 8 May. They also talked about the actions required of their governments at the regional level to implement economic development programs as a means to consolidate their achievements on issues of peace and democratization.

Nicaraguan Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy recognized the existence of problems with the Sandinists concerning the tranfer of power on 25 April—particularly differences in the military sector, because the Sandinists want to maintain certain structures of the Army's higher commands. Referring to General Humberto Ortega, Vice President-elect Godoy said that he personally does not believe Ortega should remain in the post because his position in the Sandinist party is incompatible with his post as military commander.

President-elect Rafael Calderon announced a meeting of Central American economic ministers in San Jose in mid-May. The meeting will be held to prepare the economic agenda that the Central American presidents will review during the summit scheduled for Guatemala City in July. The governments in the area must carry out a series of actions designed to achieve economic development, the only means to give their people the living conditions they want, President-elect Rafael Angel Calderon said.

Nicaraguan Vice President-elect Virgilio Godoy visited President Oscar Arias Sanchez to thank him for the efforts being exerted in favor of regional peace. Godoy talked with the president for over an hour and reviewed various Central American political and economic issues. The Nicaraguan vice president-elect said that Arias Sanchez exerted himself to the utmost for Central America and, consequently, for Nicaragua.

El Salvador

Armed Forces Accuse FMLN of Continuing Attacks

PA1204225490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1605 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Armed Forces today denounced the plans of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to continue to "bleed" the country and questioned whether they have any real intention to discuss peace in future talks with the government.

The Salvadoran Army bases its assertion on a number of attacks by the FMLN over the past few days against military men in which civilians have also been hit.

"The Salvadoran Armed Forces want to go on record that despite the peace talks, peace communiques, and unilateral truces, the FMLN terrorists insist on violating their own agreements and hindering the dialogue process and negotiations that they talk about so much in their campaign," the Army warns in a communique.

In the document, the military leadership reiterates "their total and unconditional" support to President Alfredo Cristiani "in the peace process, encouraging human rights, and the sincere call to all sectors" of the country to find peace.

The Army recalled FMLN guerrilla attacks, such as the one that killed Sub-Lieutenant Salvador Enrique Salazar on 6 April and Otto Sorto Milla, son-in-law of Salvadoran Air Force Chief General Rafael Villamariona. Sorto Milla died on 6 April, 17 days after the attack in which he was wounded.

The report also mentions the attack against military men on 2 April at Santa Tecla, 15 km to the west of San Salvador, where an officer, five military academy students, and one civilian were killed, and about 20 were wounded when a "car-bomb" was detonated by remote control.

Both the government and the FMLN have stated, in the past few days, their willingness to resume the talks suspended in November 1989, following the signing of an agreement on 4 April in Geneva, Switzerland, sponsored by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

During Holy Week, breaking with what had become just about a tradition in El Salvador for this time of the year and Christmas, the FMLN did not decree a unilateral military cease-fire; on the contrary, they have continued their activities, which have caused several dozen casualties on both sides.

FMLN's Villalobos Remarks on Geneva Meeting

PA1304034390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Apr 90

[Statement by Joaquin Villalobos, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, General Command; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The opening of negotiations at the UN forum in Geneva is a historic and strategic event for the Salvadoran people's struggle. We have to bear in mind that nearly all of the country's social, popular, union, and political forces have been stressing the need for a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. Since 1981, the FMLN has been underlining this need for the war in El Salvador to end through negotiations. It has been necessary to overcome much resistance in Washington and within El Salvador's army and oligarchy.

The fact that this meeting was held in Geneva, the protocol that is going to be signed, the commitment that this represents for the sides, the blood that the combatants have shed to reach this point, the effort of the social organizations, and the martyrs who have given their lives in this effort all represent a very important stage and become a strategic victory for the Salvadoran people. All of this sets the Salvadoran process on its way to a negotiated political solution and brings the possibility of reaching peace in El Salvador closer.

We must also take into consideration that in 1981 we made our first proposals for a negotiated solution. Next came the dialogue meetings, which made the people aware of the need for a negotiated solution and a favorable opinion of such talks. The government, however, regarded such talks as linked to the electoral campaign and their eagerness to achieve government positions, instead of considering such talks as related to a true search for peace. The FMLN and the people's forces gradually helped create a climate for true negotiations. When the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government took office, it established a plan for talks without negotiations. The FMLN, however, kept struggling for serious negotiations. On several occasions, we pointed out that this conflict has cost 70,000 Salvadorans their lives. This conflict, in which the United States has spent more than $3 billion, has damaged a sizable portion of the country's population and economy and has been (?devastating) the territory. This is a large-scale war for any one country.

The Salvadoran Government, the ruling classes in El Salvador, and the military had been refusing a negotiation. By putting up this kind of resistance, they pretended that this conflict could be resolved, as if it were a street brawl in which it would be enough for the involved sides to start talking and for one to submit itself to the other, just like that. The government has virtually been proposing that we surrender. This has been described as a political solution. The Geneva meeting means that we succeeded in overcoming this resistance to negotiations in a strategic framework. The UN secretary general's presence in Geneva is very significant. This is the world's most important forum. If we have gotten this far, it is not because we are in the midst of a street brawl, because the Salvadoran conflict is of little importance, or because we were permitted to be represented in the meeting.

This is the most important. We have reached this point even at a time when the Arena government and some military officers have tried to regard this meeting as an international opportunity to point out FMLN weaknesses. They even tried to assume an arrogant stance and make wrong estimates regarding the FMLN's power. The government dared hope to achieve a military victory. Even at that time, the FMLN, with the effort entailed by the 11 November offensive and with the support of all the world's great organizations, has taken the government to the world's highest forum and forced the government representatives to [words indistinct]. To achieve peace in El Salvador, it is necessary to democratize the country. It has clearly been established that the conflict will have to be solved politically.

It is necessary to respect human rights. As a very important contribution, the document says clearly in one of its paragraphs that accords and willingness are essential to stop the armed confrontation. Paragraphs like this are very important achievements because they set forth that for the war to end [words indistinct]. Behind these changes lie the interests of many Salvadorans, the lands of the peasants of the agrarian reform, the democratization of all of the country's social and political forces. We should claim this event as a strategic victory of all of the Salvadoran people and the FMLN combatants.

This event brought to a head an important stage of the struggle process that has been taking place all these years. This does not mean, however, that the task has been concluded. We will have to go on. The arms will ensure that we will [words indistinct] the situation in our country. We have said it already. [Words indistinct]. We will now initiate a battle for the results of this achievement. We have ensured a formal discussion that will guarantee we will succeed in achieving our purposes. This is a serious forum, where our strength and the existence of two powers in El Salvador, regardless of whether the military and those who oppose our (?organization) like it or not, are formally recognized. Now comes another stage in the struggle in which it will be necessary to combine properly all the forms of cooperation.

Cristiani Signs Trade Agreements With Venezuela

PA1304044090 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 6 Apr 90 p 21

[Text] Seven important agreements or treaties were signed by President Alfredo Cristiani during his recent visit to Venezuela.

The minister of planning gave details of the treaties as follows:

1. In the first place, it was agreed that Venezuela will refinance the debt that El Salvador has with FIV [Venezuelan Investment Fund] and Finexpo [Venezuelan Fund for Export Financing] on account of capital quotas and interests. The refinancing will be for approximately $8 million for a 4-year period, which includes a two-year grace period and a six-percent interest rate.

2. Also, a $30-million finance package was agreed upon to cover three areas: a preinvestment fund, the creations of jobs, and an industrial reconversion.

3. Likewise, the presidents of the two nations signed a document increasing the list of Salvadoran products to be exported to Venezuela. It is expected that these provisions will be implemented in a few days.

4. As far as technical cooperation is concerned, a treaty covering three main areas was signed: a) support given to

the Family Secretariat, chaired by Mrs. Margarita de Cristiani; b) vocational education; and c) international marketing.

5. Besides, the 11th Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed, referring to the San Jose Agreement—a mechanism through which Venezuela and Mexico supply petroleum to Central American and Caribbean nations under favorable conditions. Through this agreement, the Venezuelan crude oil quota to our nation is increased by 8,000 barrels. At the same time, the document includes a reduction in freight costs and extends deadlines on letters of credit.

6. Also, the Venezuelan Government and the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Fedecamaras) agreed to participate in the next International Fair of El Salvador and to supply equipment for the industrial reconversion with financing.

7. The last point on the agenda approved in Venezuela was the Venezuelan Government's full support of the dialogue process for peace in our country.

Guatemala

Salavadoran Vice President on FMLN Violence

PA1204144990 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Apr 90 p 6

[Text] After delivering a document to the Guatemalan foreign minister on 5 April, Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino told reporters that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] must set aside its violent attitude because there is still fighting in El Salvador.

The vice president of the sister nation said yesterday at the Foreign Ministry that reestablishing the dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas has been positive, but that the FMLN will have to set aside its violent attitude because otherwise everything will be a farce.

The neighboring country's official was interviewed moments after giving Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias the charter of the Central American Parliament, which was created following an initiative presented by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo.

Merino added that if the FMLN sets aside its violent attitude and promotes a change in its actions, the Salvadoran people will have a peaceful, safe, and tranquil environment, but that remains to be seen.

He explained that the dialogue proposal was made before the eyes of the world and that the Salvadoran Government has taken firm steps and has clearly shown its goodwill toward finding peace through peaceful means. We hope that the FMLN will respond favorably to this attitude so that the Salvadoran people can finally find the peace it needs so badly to develop, he said.

Concerning the economic summit proposed by President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, the Salvadoran vice president said that any efforts made for everyone's benefit are welcome.

Nicaragua

Contra Commander on Demobilization Process

PA1204225290 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, Commander Oscar Sobalvarro by Luis Mora; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mora] Commander Ruben [Oscar Sobalvarro], when and how do you think the demobilization of the RN will take place?

[Sobalvarro] This is a process that will take time. Everything will hinge on the political will of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to contribute to this process. We cannot set a date when the demobilization process will conclude, because we are engaged in talks within this framework. This matter will depend on some changes within Nicaragua.

[Mora] The Toncontin agreement mentions dates. What is hampering compliance with those dates?

[Sobalvarro] The Toncontin agreement issued on 23 March contains some points that must be carried out before the agreement can be complied with. The chief goal of the contra demobilization process is to show a political commitment to support the government of Violeta Barrios. The demobilization process began on 23 March and should continue with the surrendering of weapons that still remain in Honduras. A bilateral ceasefire should be simultaneously established with international verification and the participation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo.

This process will continue with the demarcation of security zones, the separation of forces, and the gathering of the RN armed forces in these security zones. The demobilization process will culminate with the surrendering of all the weapons, when all the general guarantees of security for all Nicaraguans have been achieved.

[Mora] The Toncontin agreement set a date for the demobilization of the fighters in Honduras. Will that date also apply to the fighters in Nicaragua?

[Sobalvarro] Yes. We set a dateline, which is on 20 April at the latest, to hand over the weapons of the fighters who are still in Honduras. We had already set a date, namely 18 April, and will abide by that. We are finishing up the details of how the weapons that still remain in

Honduras will be handed over. In this way we will abide by the Toncontin agreement.

[Mora] When will the demobilization of the contras in Nicaragua take place?

[Sobalvarro] As I said before, this process will take time, but it will also depend on the will of the EPS to contribute to the demilitarization of Nicaragua. I think dates do not matter in all of this. The Central Americans signed agreements and set datelines, but the Sandinist government hampered compliance with those agreements. We hope now that there is going to be a new democratic government in Nicaragua, this government will make democratic reforms so that RN fighters can feel confident.

When all the causes of the conflict disappear, there will be no reason to continue the armed struggle. When the causes that gave rise to the conflict disappear, it stands to reason that the RN will voice its willingness to lay down its weapons. We do not see that those conditions exist now. We hope that once Violeta Chamorro takes office, Nicaragua's situation will change, and everything will be done in a climate of confidence and trust.

[Mora] Commander Ruben, you are saying that the conditions that gave rise to the civil war in Nicaragua have not disappeared yet, although elections were held and the majority of the people voted for change in Nicaragua. As you said before, we are involved in a transition process where Sandinists will have to leave power. Do you feel that this political situation in Nicaragua is not enough? What other conditions are the RN fighters demanding before they demobilize?

[Sobalvarro] We see that the culmination of the elections, where Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy were elected, represents a change in Nicaragua. This is what the RN and the Nicaraguan people want, and this is why the people voted for the National Opposition Union. It is very important that the Nicaraguan people voted against the totalitarian system and the Sandinist system. When I say that unless the causes that gave rise to the struggle disappear there can be no demobilization, I mean the fighters do not feel confident that they have.

We proved that with the attitude of the EPS and all the commanders. They are saying they will not leave their army. Many commanders like Humberto Ortega and Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo want to stay in the army. We know these men are responsible for all the military operations that have been conducted all over the country these past 10 years. We know they are responsible for the fighting, bombings, murders, and the arrests or disappearances of many people. It is not just them, but all those who carried out the orders given to them. To abide by the Toncontin agreement and total RN demobilization, all these top EPS officers must leave their positions.

[Mora] It is said that the RN fighters are asking for posts in the new government. Is that true?

[Sobalvarro] That is not true. We have struggled to attain democracy in Nicaragua so that the rights of all Nicaraguans are respected. We do not desire any position. We only want Nicaragua to have peace and freedom, and, as I said previously, that the rights of all citizens are respected. Thus, we do not strive to attain positions. The only thing each RN fighter wanted was to return to his country and be able to live in freedom without anyone bothering him. We know that this type of freedom can only exist if the EPS structures disappear. There is nobody here in the RN who aspires to positions in the new government.

Contra Commander Says EPS Bombing Civilians

PA1204203490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1913 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The contras stationed in Honduras today reported that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] "is bombing" civilian areas in the northern Nicaraguan Department of Esteli.

Commander Oscar Sovalbarro ("Ruben") told ACAN-EFE that the attacks of the past few hours in the communities of San Lorenzo, Las Mezas, San Andres, El Tamarindo, Cerro La Laguna, and other places "may have caused serious injury to many civilians."

"Ruben" said that he has received reports from contra fighters stating that the Sandinists are using Soviet MI-17 and MI-24 helicopters, 120 mm cannons, and multiple BM-21 rocket launchers.

"The bombings have been indiscriminate and we believe they have caused great damage among the civilian population," he added.

According to "Ruben," several fighters of the Nicaraguan Resistance are also in the areas supposedly bombed by the Sandinists. He attributed the attacks to the fact that "the Sandinists do not want to relinquish power."

Editorial on Future of Sandinist Army

PA1204140790 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 90 p 3

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The issue that has prompted the most questions regarding the democratic transition is the military, and it really deserves all our attention. The political phenomenon that will take place in Nicaragua on 25 April is very unique and specific. The EPS [Sandinist People's Army] has a double status. For one thing, it is the successor of the guerrilla military effort that the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] developed from 1963 until 1979. Since its foundation after 19 July of that year, fighters and commanders of the Sandinist columns and fronts were incorporated into the EPS ranks and given a partisan, political education. The EPS is, then, a partisan army.

Moreover, especially after the promulgation of the Constitution in 1987, the EPS "has a national status and must protect, respect, and obey" that Constitution. The EPS is also, then, an armed institution with a national status.

Until now, the determining factor about the EPS has been its partisan status, to such an extent that its chief commanding officers belong to the FSLN and openly carried out proselytizing activities on its behalf. No officer, not even a common soldier, could belong to another party. Those military personnel who had differences with the FSLN, starting with Eden Pastora, Roger Miranda, and Moises Hassan, had to leave the country or leave its ranks to express their own views.

The institutional and professional aspects, which would become the prevailing factors if the EPS were basically a national army, are secondary. This particularly applies to the permanent [as published] military forces, which have the largest number of officers. In terms of the number of soldiers and technical military means, the EPS is big and possesses a huge amount of weapons that came from what used to be called the socialist community.

Thus, the EPS is a huge army equipped with modern and diverse means of destruction and where the partisan status prevails over the national or institutional factor. This partisan aspect does not preclude the national or institutional factor, since the EPS is legally and truly the armed branch of the state and the country, and thousands of men, who have received training and specialized education in the different branches of military science and techniques, have made their careers in its ranks.

How should one deal with the EPS while making the necessary arrangements for transferring power? It is a serious and delicate matter, not because the Armed Forces represent the state's fifth power or an institution with negotiating power, but because it is necessary to adequately handle the various aspects of the problem, to resolve them in favor of peace, democracy, and national sovereignty.

To wipe out all military ranks with a simple signature, to retire all officers just like that, would be like trying to destroy a mine by stepping on it. To think of exerting total control over the Armed Forces, excluding all officers and high-ranking Sandinists, would also be a poor practical decision.

Peace cannot be built by decree or resolution, even though it may come from the Supreme Electoral Council declaring UNO a winner in the February 1990 elections. Nor can democracy be established in a hurry or by sectarian attitudes. The FSLN was unable to establish peace or democracy because its members were sectarian and arrogant, underestimated all the political forces, and looked down on the people—so much so that the defeat the people inflicted upon them at the ballot boxes took them completely by surprise. In the decisive battle, the Sandinist commanders were not capable of foreseeing the defeat and preparing for it.

The search for peace and democracy makes it necessary to move ahead with realism and a certain degree of pragmatism while recognizing the partisan characteristics of the EPS. It makes it necessary to move ahead with maturity to ensure—not suddenly, but thoroughly—the Armed Forces' national and institutional features.

It would not be good for the future stability of the country to ignore what is real and needs to be transformed slowly. One also needs to recognize that the FSLN withstood with much difficulty the temptation to lead Nicaragua into complete destruction. It resisted the temptation to use the Armed Forces to ignore the electoral results, and instead accepted that the transfer of power will take place.

It is an exceptional case that a party with its own intact army accepted an electoral defeat. It is true, exceptional circumstances existed, one of which was the total self-deception of the Sandinist directorate. They believed, without any doubt whatsoever, that they would be victorious, and this mistake led them to go for broke in a manner that, to many Sandinists, seemed to be based more on a risky bet than on a well-thought-out decision.

However, the euphoria of victory is no justification for the victors to abuse their new rights gained by the victory. This would be a mistake similar to the one made by the Sandinist directorate. No doubt the best thing would be to know how to administer the victory and not risk it with nonsensical bets, and then to progressively consolidate it, especially if one takes into account that, without much outside effort, the loser's defeat could become progressively worse due to its own crisis.

But then, what should one do with the Armed Forces, especially the EPS, to make the transfer of power orderly and democratic and to lay down the basis for peace and democracy, without disturbing the same constitutional framework that it repeatedly invokes? Several alternatives can be examined.

1. One alternative would be to reach an agreement with the EPS High Command on the selection of the future defense minister and the formation of the general staff and other highly important positions. This entire negotiation process will be possible if the military agrees beforehand that consultation and a search for a consensus with them implies total subordination to Nicaragua's future president.

The advantages of this option are manifold. It would ensure that the agreement will be at the highest level, and that the Army's subordination will be total. It would make it difficult for armed groups formed by members of the Armed Forces to dare to carry out military activities on their own to the detriment of peace.

However, this option also has its disadvantages. It places the execution of a public post of enormous importance in

the hands of a small team of individuals. It allows the permanence in their positions of individuals who, because of their influence over the troops, could at some time or other attempt to impose conditions on the Presidency, which is not a secondary risk.

However, the greatest disadvantage is that broad sectors of the victorious opposition are opposed to calling upon the same individuals who promoted militarism and repression to continue in the Defense Ministry. Their opposition was endorsed by popular vote, which expressed itself against that militarism and repression.

2. Another option would be to work with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Directorate in choosing the new defense minister and other designees.

The FSLN Directorate could propose two lists, one of three or five military men, and the other of an equal number of civilians, as a means of including their opinions in the process of selection and national consensus.

The advantage of this procedure would be that the FSLN itself, and not just the military High Command, would be forced to respect the arrangement.

It is clear that it would be greatly disadvantageous to continue to foster EPS partisanship. However, if the option of working with the FSLN is temporarily adopted for a certain period while the Armed Forces are reduced and reorganized, the Army's institutionality would be progressively reaffirmed to the detriment of partisanship—which has to be recognized as a situation that must change—and all objections would be undermined.

3. A third option would be to have the president-elect send a list of several candidates for Defense Minister and other military posts to the FSLN's National Directorate and to the current military High Command, to get a feel for their thoughts and opinion concerning this issue. All of this would be part of the effort to find the best procedure whereby we would accomplish the stable and lasting peace that we are pursuing.

Now then, regardless of which procedure is chosen, it must be underscored that the choice will be to the Nicaraguan people's own advantage. No one can dictate solutions concerning this issue from abroad. It would also be convenient to inform the people of the progress that is made in this regard. The people are entitled to know how government decisions are made; they know, after all, what is in their own best interest.

Wheat Donation From USSR Arrives in Corinto

PA1204154690 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Apr 90 p 7

[Report by F. Thomas]

[Text] Corinto—Deputy Foreign Cooperation Minister Javier Bone has received 12,000 tons of wheat donated by the USSR to the Nicaraguan people. Upon receiving the donation on 3 April in Corinto, he said: "The Nicaraguan people will never forget the Soviet help."

The donation, valued at $2 million, is part of the 25 million tons of wheat the USSR will send to Nicaragua along with 25,000 tons of rice, flour, meat, and canned goods. This donation is worth over $20 million.

When expressing his gratitude for the donation, Bone stressed that during the 10 years of revolution, the Nicaraguan people have received over 500,000 tons of food and 6,000 tractors for farm work, as well as technical assistance for the development of programs in different regions of the country.

The deputy foreign cooperation minister added that the total amount of aid received from the Soviet people has been estimated at $400 million, in addition to the $3 billion in credit for the purchase of input products, machinery, medicine, vehicles, and other products that are vital for the development of the country.

When presenting the donation of wheat, Soviet Embassy Commercial Attache Vasiliy Voyevnov said that his government has planned to send aid worth 270 million rubles in food this year and to continue credit lines in compliance with the established agreements.

"We plan to continue our aid, which was already accepted by president-elect Violeta Barrios and her advisers," Voyevnov said.

Representatives and authorities from Enimport [Nicaraguan Imports Enterprise] and the Soviet Embassy attended the presentation ceremony.

Panama

Embassy Fails To Report Chiari Presence

PA1204184490 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2334 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] So far, the Ecuadoran Embassy in Panama has not notified the Foreign Ministry of the presence of former Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon in its diplomatic mission, Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovich has said.

[Begin Castulovich recording] We have not been officially notified by the Ecuadoran Embassy that Mr. Chiari has sought refuge in that embassy. As long as there is no official notification by the Ecuadoran diplomatic mission, the foreign minister cannot react to Mr. Chiari's physical presence inside the diplomatic mission. [end recording]

Questioned about the possibility that citizens Virgilio Mirones, Alberto Purcell, Jilma Noriega de Jurado, Tomas Gabriel Altamirano Duque, and Dr. Roger Montero are looking for political asylum in some diplomatic missions, Castulovich said:

[Begin Castulovich recording] If a person decides to enter a diplomatic mission, it will be up to the chief of the mission to decide if the person will be allowed to enter. At that stage of the game, as you may understand, the Foreign Ministry cannot intervene. If a person enters an embassy, the mission's duty is to notify the foreign ministry once it defines the person's status. However, it is not their obligation to do it within a strict time limit. We cannot prevent—it is not up to us—the access of people to diplomatic missions. [end recording]

Further on Chiari

PA1204184690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Apr 90 p A-1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Panama has requested the approval of Francisco Martinez as ambassador to Ecuador, Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Castulovich has announced. At the same time, Castulovich reiterated that former Government Minister Rodolfo Chiari is only a guest at the Ecuadoran Embassy in Panama.

Castulovich said that Martinez, who ran for the legislature in the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] ticket, is a young and well-qualified man who will contribute toward improving relations between Panama and Ecuador.

Referring to Chiari, who has been at the Ecuadoran Embassy for a week and a half, the official reiterated that the Foreign Ministry will take action based on the reports by the Attorney General's Office, adding that there are charges on file against Chiari.

The deputy foreign minister said that the issue of granting safe- conducts is done according to the penal codes of each country, and therefore the Chairi case is actually not directly linked to the issue of relations between Panama and Ecuador.

The deputy foreign minister explained that the Ecuadoran Government has not informed officials that Chiari is under asylum, and therefore "he is considered a guest."

Castulovich said that as long as Ecuador does not officially send notification, "he is there as if you or I were enjoying the hospitality of the ambassador."

Civic Crusade on Rio Group's Statements

PA1204225790 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Apr 90 p 8-A

[Text] In light of the recent statements made in Mexico by the Group of Rio, the National Civic Crusade has issued a communique stating its position. Part of that communique reads as follows:

"For many years, Panamanians who wanted to live in democracy repeatedly approached the Latin American governments in an attempt to obtain their support for the democratization struggle they were waging against the dictatorial regime that oppressed them. This is the same regime the Latin American governments considered worthy of participation in meetings where the common denominator of most of the governments, was representing the will of their people.

"On those many occasions, and particularly in the last few years, we were told that the Panamanian problem had to be solved by Panamanians and that they could not meddle in our internal affairs.

"In view of the above, we Panamanians prefer to live in democracy forever, rather than belong, under a dictatorial government, to organizations which, due to their ambiguity, deny the purposes and objectives for which they were created."

Rio Group Demand for New Elections Analyzed

PA1204192290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Apr 90 p 4-A

[First part of two-part editorial: "The Rio Group and New Elections"]

[Text] Panama's conflict with several Latin American countries intensified after the now-famous presidential speech in Bocas del Toro, in which President Endara accused the Mexican Government, headed by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, of being the product of electoral fraud, and Mexican Foreign Secretary Francisco Solana of making statements that amounted to "a thousand stupidities." The Panamanian public focused its anger exclusively against the Mexican Government when the Group of Eight decided not to readmit Panama. However, it turned out that the Mexican foreign secretary made the announcement on behalf of his Argentine, Uruguayan, Peruvian, Colombian, Venezuelan, and Brazilian counterparts. During the days of the narcodictatorship, the Group of Eight expelled the pro-Noriega government for justifiable reasons. Now that Panamanians have a democratic government, we are still being rejected. Why?

The Group of Eight—now called the Rio Group because it has seven members—individually and collectively has said that Panama must have new elections to legitimize its government. We must add that U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle expressed the same opinion. After a careful study of the problem, it would be silly to think that Mr. Quayle was speaking on his own behalf. In addition, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez made the same recommendation during his visit to the White House. The Spanish prime ministers's opinion on Latin American affairs is generally understood as the EC's opinion.

In sum, quite a few forces have joined in demanding new elections in Panama. For our part, we Panamanians are wondering why the strongest Latin American countries, the United States, and Spain are demanding new elections to "legitimize" the government when it is clear that

the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] forces achieved an unprecedented victory in the May 1989 elections?

What is the basis for these countries demanding new elections in Panama when they would be costly and we are lacking funds? It cannot be mere capriciousness or an intent to hurt Panama. We refuse to believe that there is a plot or conspiracy among the strongest Latin American countries, the United States, and Spain regarding new elections in Panama. On the other hand, will the Panamanian Government be able to stabilize internally and externally without satisfying the demands made by a wide sector of the international community? Panamanians will have to answer this last question.

In our next editorial we will try to analyze the arguments used by the international community to demand new elections in Panama.

More on Rio Group Demands

PA1204215290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 11 Apr 90 p 4-A

[Part two of of two-part editorial: "The Rio Group and New Elections"]

[Text] Since the Bocas del Toro speech, many of us have tried to determine the reasons for such an unprecedented and orchestrated referendum made by the international community.

There has been a total and complete rejection of the narcodictatorship. For reasons of diplomacy and the deep-rooted Estrada Doctrine, diplomatic relations with Panama during the Noriega regime continued. The OAS actions not only hurt Panamanian democracy, but fertilized the ground for the narco-tyranny. Latin Americans, in our opinion, became frustrated and adopted the principle of an ancient law, which states "do not order something done that you cannot get done."

To the OAS' failure, we must add the permanent Latin American suspicion regarding the United States. "Yankees Go Home," imperialists, colonialists, creators of puppet governments, and we can go on and on with a long list of negative notions held by Latin American countries against the United States. Some of them are justified, and others are the result of the last century. History has not been kind to some countries, therefore, anti-Yankee resentment appears. However, there is also a "love-hate" relationship. When Latin Americans are jobless, when they are looking for new opportunities, when they decide to get an education, or when they are expelled from their countries, where do they go? To the United States. When they need money, where do they go? To the United States. If they do not receive enough aid from the North, who do they complain about? The United States. Why are the United States and Canada enormously prosperous and Latin America poor? We do not like this.

Any U.S. action in Latin America is considered to be highly suspicious. We can recall the invasions of Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Grenada, and Panama to mention a few cases. Even though we call it a "liberation," Latin Americans call it a merciless "invasion." However, it is necessary to accept that without the U.S. aid, we could have never been able to overthrow Noriega, the despicable dignity battalions, the Codepadi [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity], and the paramilitary groups.

According to the international community, on 20 December the U.S. Army invaded Panama and swore in, before two witnesses, Guillermo Endara, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford to their respective posts. A few days later, as if by magic, the members of the discredited and now sanctified Electoral Tribunal made their appearance and "legitimized" the government that the same Electoral Tribunal had rejected before the international observers; all of this was achieved during the "occupation" of a foreign army. The de facto regime, hoping to become a dejure government following the new elections, stopped being de facto because of a ruling issued by the discredited Electoral Tribunal.

In other words, the U.S. military action and the "credentials" of the discredited Electoral Tribunal have left a bitter taste in the mouth of the international community, which they would like to get rid of. Of course, the United States is among those most interested in achieving this.

Granddaughter of Former FDP Official Kidnapped

PA1204154290 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Apr 90 pp 31, 14

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] The granddaughter of Colonel Marcos Justines—former chief of staff of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP]— was kidnapped yesterday afternoon at approximately 1830 from her home in Villa de las Fuentes [a Panama City suburb], according to a special report broadcast last night by Radio KW Continente.

Relatives of the former military chief who were in the residence last night refused to provide any details, but they did admit that "unidentified persons abruptly entered the mansion and took away the approximately 5-year-old child in a gray sedan."

The name of the child was not disclosed, because members of the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] and of the U.S. Army—some of them in civilian clothes—arrived on the scene and started to clear the area of reporters and

the many people who were there trying to obtain information.

It was observed last night that the PTJ was conducting investigations and interrogating employees and relatives of the former FDP deputy commander. An official who was blocking access to the residence said that he was doing this "for security reasons, while the investigations are being conducted." When staff members of this newspaper telephoned PTJ officials to consult with them about this issue, they said "they were not aware of the case."

Argentina

Government Submits Letter of Intent to IMF

PY1204213090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1124 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN)—According to a letter of intent that Argentina has submitted to the IMF, Argentina will ask commercial creditor banks to include provisions in future accords for reducing the principal and interest on its debt.

The Finance Ministry has released a summary of the letter, which states that overdue obligations reached $5.2 billion by the end of 1989 and will reach $7.5 billion by the end of this year. The letter also says that the accord with the creditor banks will have to take into account that over the next few years the country "will be able to pay only part of the interest on the medium and long-term debt owed by the public sector."

The letter, which was submitted to the IMF to unblock an IMF standby credit and pending World Bank credits and to obtain fresh funds from commercial banks, estimates that exports will undergo sustained growth and that imports will increase, thus pushing the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments to $1.44 billion. The letter states that the increased disbursements to [as received] international agencies and foreign governments, along with the return of private capital, will help reduce the balance of payments deficit to $450 million.

The letter stressed that the government "is determined to eliminate those fiscal and industrial policy factors that discourage exports," and that it will support the stabilization process by "reducing withholdings on exports."

Economy Minister on Foreign Debt Negotiations

PY1204161290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1828 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (NA)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today denied that the government intends to decree an immediate increase in utility rates, stressing that "conditions are currently not right." Gonzalez announced that the proposal of a 450,000 australes "guaranteed salary" for state employees as of April "will be rethought."

Gonzalez said that he will not implement any new taxes, except those currently being studied that seek to assess the financial activity of foreign exchange houses.

The minister recognized that during the past few months the private sector has transferred between 26 and 28 percent of the GDP—some $16 billion—to the state as taxes and duties. Gonzalez stressed, however, that the "inflationary process has distorted the final values."

Gonzalez held a news conference to report on his talks with international financial organizations. He admitted that the government does not expect any economic growth this year, adding that no interest payments on the foreign debt with international private banks will be made during 1990.

Gonzalez said: "We cannot pay interest because our foreign currency reserves situation is very fragile" despite recent Central Bank gains which have allowed us to recover previous levels.

During the first part of the meeting, Minister Adviser Jorge Murillo read a detailed report on Gonzalez' activities during his recent visit to Canada and the United States.

The report said that Gonzalez requested a "waiver" (pardon) from IMF authorities for Argentina's failure to fulfill its goals as stated in a letter of intent that was presented by former Minister Nestor Rapanelli.

The purpose of the request is to free the disbursement of three payments of $235 million that are part of a stand-by loan granted to Argentina that totals $1.4 billion. Only the first installment of this loan has been disbursed.

The Argentine proposal that was handed to IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus seeks "to eliminate the fiscal deficit as a basis for launching a program of economic development."

The minister recognized, however, that the GDP will not grow during 1990 and that consequently the volume of production and services could drop again this year.

The letter of intent presented to the IMF paints "a picture that presupposes a budget deficit of two percent of the GDP, meaning a drop from 14 percent in June 1989 to seven percent in December 1989 and to two percent in March 1990."

Comdessus promised to bring the memorandum of understanding for consideration at the 25-May meeting and invited Gonzalez to present "the Argentine Government points of view " at an IMF interim committee meeting on 7 May.

World Bank President Barber Conable meanwhile confirmed the granting of a $1 billion credit package as the first part of a plan to finance a program to rationalize public enterprises, to clean up their financial situation, and to provide funds for provincial economic development.

The program submitted to the World Bank seeks "to overcome social cost problems stemming from the structural reform of the state and to implement programs to assist mothers, children, and senior citizens with food, temporary job insurance, and basic health services. [quotation mark as received]

It has been reiterated that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a $250 million loan for the Yacyreta hydroelectric project and urged Argentina and

Paraguay to make "a great effort in investing the funds, earmarked for the project, with greater efficiency."

IDB President Enrique Iglesias has also confirmed that the IDB and the World Bank will each make an initial disbursement of $1 billion as part of a loan earmarked for reorganizing public enterprises, for the national and provincial governments, and for social emergency programs.

Each multilateral credit organization will provide 35 percent of these funds, thus leaving Argentina "with the responsibility of providing the remaining 30 percent," that is, Argentina will have to provide $600 million to match the $2 billion to be disbursed by the IDB and the World Bank.

Commenting on negotiations held with private creditor banks, namely with William Rhodes, president of the steering committee, Gonzalez repeated that no payments will be made this year on the servicing or interest of any debt that is already due. It has been stated that "Argentina must first consolidate its stabilization within a manageable inflation rate in order to initiate talks to this effect." These talks will have to be held within the framework of "a growth program because, as the Brady Plan states, no country can pay its debt without true economic growth."

The plan also requires "a flexible position by commercial banks in financing foreign trade." The possibility of purchasing debt bonds from secondary stock markets, where these bonds are being sold at 12 percent of their face value, was also mentioned. Gonzalez told newsmen that "this program will yield the desired effects. We must end inflation."

He stated that "there will be no new taxes." He added that the license fees to be paid by money exchanges "do not serve a merely fiscal purpose, but are designed to normalize foreign currency exchange operations." Gonzalez admitted that in recent months the private sector transferred the equivalent of between 26 and 28 percent of the GDP to the government in the form of taxes and utility rates. He said these figures do not include the proceeds from the sale of state-owned enterprises.

He noted, however, that "the inflationary process has distorted these figures." He said no utility rate increases are necessary at this time and made it clear that these increases are based on "service costs, rather than on tax mechanisms."

Gonzalez said that a restructuring of the provincial banking system is "possible" and noted that "after discontinuing its role of regulating economic activities, the state will no longer coercively intervene" in the private financial market.

He said that "current conditions do not justify utility rate increases" following the the latest 25-percent fuel-price increase. He also reported that the government "will revise on the upper side" its commitment to guarantee a 450,000 austral minimum salary for government employees this month.

Menem Discusses Railway Strike, Privatization

PY1204205890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] President Menem today told a Cordoba radio station that the government demonstrated its firmness in the railroad employees' strike, in which nobody had to mediate. We simply established conditions for lifting the strike, he said.

The president also said that the railroad employees' strike has caused the country damage amounting to several million australs a day. He added that the two day strike cost 1.7 billion australs a day, in addition to the $2 million that are normally lost each day.

Menem said that strict measures should be adopted to protect the country and the Argentine people against actions similar to the strike staged in the past few days by railroad employees and unions without any consultation. He said that Argentina is in an emergency situation. I believe, he said, that we have to give up certain things for the benefit of the country. This is what the union leaders should learn. The rank-and-file have agreed to cooperate in this task, but the leaders have not risen to the occasion.

In this regard he recalled the rally in Plaza de Mayo last Friday. He described that event as spectacular and significant because it supported the government's decision, not to reverse, but to continue its policy, which will allow Argentina to take a place of privilege among nations.

Menem reasserted that important enterprises like Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] and Argentine Airlines will be privatized before June and that the Argentine railway will be privatized by October, at the latest.

He said that the names of businessmen and companies evading taxes will be released in due time.

La Fraternidad Lifts Strike

PY1204153290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0222 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Apr (TELAM)—La Fraternidad railway union tonight abandoned the indefinite strike it began yesterday, and demanded that those dismissed workers be rehired. La Franternidad railway union leader Juan Carlos Duhalde has reported that in view of this decision "railway service will be normal" as of midnight tonight.

Following a meeting with Roberto Dromi, Public Works and Service Minister, Duhalde said it was requested that

"the dismissals be reconsidered," and that the minister submitted this request to the railway company.

New Trade Balance Figures Reported

PY1204171290 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 90 Second Section p 2

[Summary] The Foreign Industry and Trade Under Secretariat has reported that there was a $685 million trade surplus during the first two months of 1990. Exports amounted to $1.365 billion and imports to $680 million during the same period. These figures demonstrate a 120.5 percent increase in exports when compared to the same period in 1989.

Senator Menem Evaluates Recent Trip to England

PY1204222490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Interview with Senate President Eduardo Menem by Alberto Ahuad in La Rioja on 12 April—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ahuad] Good morning, Senator Menem.

[Menem] Good morning. How are you, Alberto?

[Ahuad] Nice to have you here in La Rioja. It is quite a change of scenery for you. Only yesterday you were in England, and today your are in La Rioja.

[Menem] I am happy to be back here in my province after a very important trip for the country and for Argentine international relations.

[Ahuad] We learned that you held very important meetings with British Government officials, and members of the opposition, and that your visit with Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo was successful.

[Menem] Yes, I met with the foreign minister in London. The meeting I was attending had just ended when the minister arrived. The meeting involved representatives of the two countries, who met for the first time since the Argentine-British conflict. The British are used to meetings with countries with which it previously had conflicts, such as Germany, for example. Last week the British held their 40th meeting with the Germans. In other words, they have been holding such meetings for the last 40 years. This is the first meeting with Argentina. I had the honor of being invited. This is a nongovernment meeting, but the delegations are made up of representatives from Congress, from business, and from the cultural sector. The objective of the meeting is to study bilateral relations and to see how they can be strengthened for the benefit of the two countries. The meeting is to evaluate pending matters and to try to help consolidate bilateral ties.

You know that we just resumed diplomatic relations with England. Ambassador Mario Campora will soon be going to London. Campora, a career diplomat with vast experience, is well known here in La Rioja. We discussed several issues during the meetings. Some of the issues include pending matters related to the agreements reached in Madrid last October and February, such as the important fishing issue. We also discussed cultural relations, which were at a standstill during the eight years of suspended relations. I also clearly explained the Argentine position on the sovereignty issue, and the need to discuss this issue as soon as possible. We resumed relations with an umbrella over the sovereignty issue, which we have the right to discuss. Argentina wants to start discussing how we are going to resolve the main issue, sovereignty. We also discussed other issues, such as communications between the Malvinas Islands and Argentina. In other words, we discussed how to reestablish the links existing before 1982, when the armed conflict broke out. We debated those issues, and some good ideas emerged from these meetings. We are going to continue meeting every year. The next meeting will be held in Buenos Aires in the second half of April 1991.

I also evaluated these issues with the foreign minister. We discussed the important meetings he held with his British counterpart. By the way, I also held an informal meeting with British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, an important British politician. I also met with opposition members from the British Parliament, of the Labor Party, which has a very good chance in the upcoming elections because of declining support for the current British Government. The Labor Party is ahead of the ruling party, and if this situation continues, there will probably be important changes after the upcoming elections.

[Ahuad] Are you referring to the poll tax?

[Menem] The poll tax, which has been harshly criticized, has contributed to the deterioration of the British Government's image, especially the image of the prime minister, whose popularity has fallen abruptly. If this situation is not reversed, changes in British politics can be expected in the upcoming years.

[Ahuad] Will the changes favor Argentine hopes for sovereignty over the islands?

[Menem] The British position in this regard does not vary much from one party to another. They have a uniform position on the sovereignty issue, but the advantage to the Labor Party is that they are willing to discuss the issue. The Labor Party has a better predisposition than the current British Government. Therefore, perhaps we could move toward a solution faster, even if the Labor Party does not have a substantially different position than the current British Government.

[Ahuad] Were you able to detect some signs of what the British people think about the resumption of relations with Argentina?

[Menem] The British people are generally very satisfied with the resumption of diplomatic relations. The Argentine plan for government had good repercussions in

England. The British admire the courage of the Argentine officials in their effort to find a basic solution to the problems. The Argentine Government has a generally good image in England. Regarding the Malvinas issue, a poll was taken not long ago. About one-third of the British population either do not oppose or would view favorably the return of the islands to Argentina. Of course, as in any poll, the percentages vary according the social conditions. Generally speaking, however, the resumption of relations greatly helped the Argentine position. We can now sit and negotiate. In the past we were getting favorable results at the United Nations. Those favorable results were only an invitation to talk on the Malvinas issue, but the British were reticent to talk. This government was able to overcome that reluctance. We found the formula of the umbrella over the sovereignty issue, which allows for progress on all issues while the right to talk on the main issue is reserved. Therefore, I believe that we made progress. Our visit helps create confidence, because we explained the Argentine position, that we live in a democracy, that there is respect for political rights and civil liberties. In other words, the Argentine image abroad is changing a great deal, in England in particular, and this will help us find a basic solution to the problem. [passage omitted]

Menem Says Rebel Officers Will Be Released

PM1204131890 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish 1 Apr 90 pp 14-21 (GENTE supplement)

[Interview with President Carlos Menem by Pepa Roma in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Roma] Do you believe that people can wait the two or three years that you say it will take to create jobs, without a social explosion occurring?

[Menem] There will be no social explosion here, nor will people tire of waiting. Some of them are badly off, but those who are badly off have been badly off for the past six or seven years. The claim that democracy resolves everything has led to an increase in the number of poor people in Argentina. Since we do not want to fall into the same trap as Dr. Alfonsin, we say that in a democracy, he who works will eat. This fact will become a reality in the future.

[Roma] Colonel Seineldin is becoming very popular among the poorest people. Could despair cast the Argentine masses into the arms of military false messiahs?

[Menem] Please, let us be serious. What popularity does Seineldin enjoy? I respect him as an honest soldier who fought in the Malvinas, but he has nothing to say as a politician. You cannot be two things at once. God spews out the lukewarm. You cannot be a politician and a soldier at the same time. When Peron acceded to the Presidency he made a very funny remark: "I came to the Casa Rosada and threw the general out of the window." [passage omitted]

[Roma] One of your ministers apparently said in private that only martial law could contain the social explosion that might result from layoffs from privatizations.

[Menem] If I ever discover that a minister has said anything like that he will be out in the street immediately. This is no more than a rumor. Rumors are originated by malefactors and spread by honest people. Here there are plenty of malefactors who have created hosts of rumors.

[Roma] But you yourself have admitted the possibility of using the Army in the event of an internal upheaval. Could you resort to it if more supermarkets are looted?

[Menem] No, we never use the Army for such things.

[Roma] In what situation would the Army be used to restore order?

[Menem] In a situation such as the military rising at La Tablada, for instance.

[Roma] Is it not envisaged to use the Army in any instance of social disorder?

[Menem] That is what the police security forces are for.

[Roma] Could the splits occurring between the Peronist sectors lead to confrontations such as those of 1976 that preceded the Videla coup?

[Menem] A split is one thing, but violent confrontations are a very different matter. I will not bring out the Army over such matters.

[Roma] Following the pardon that you granted to such antidemocratic mutineers as Aldo Rico and Seineldin and all those responsible for the dirty war, including the leaders of the juntas, do you intend to release the main leaders who are still in prison—Videla and Massera—and the montonero leader, Mario Firmenich?

[Menem] A pardon can only be granted by the nation's president, and when the time comes I will take this measure.

[Roma] In other words, it is on your agenda.

[Menem] Yes, it is on my agenda. You can write this quite clearly: It is the president's intention to complete this pacification process.

[Roma] This year?

[Menem] The time must be ripe, and I cannot guarantee that it will be this year.

[Roma] You were opposed to the law on due obedience and on a final settlement passed by President Alfonsin. If Alfonsin had not made the first concessions to the military would you have pursued the same path by granting the pardon?

[Menem] Dr. Alfonsin's was a disguised pardon. That is another way of conducting politics. I go straight to the heart of the matter and would also have granted a pardon in a clear manner.

[Roma] What more can the military be granted that they have not already been granted?

[Menem] They have only requested their due place within the community, respect, and regard. They have been constantly under attack ever since 1983—constantly.

[Roma] What did the Alfonsin government do wrong that you have succeeded in resolving or improving?

[Menem] It left a disastrous economic situation and a disintegrating state. The former government was at odds with the Armed Forces, the church, the trade unions, and the employers—a situation that we have had to remedy.

[Roma] What has been done to combat corruption?

[Menem] Resolving corruption does not mean putting everyone in jail right away. It means, first, investigating and supplying evidence. Are we or are we not a law-based state?

[Roma] Does such a crisis situation as the present not demand some kind of national pact with the major opposition party? What personal differences prevent your reaching an agreement with Alfonsin?

[Menem] In 1983 the first politician to join Alfonsin was Carlos Menem, for which I earned myself the name of traitor to Peronism. I supported him until 1988, then he attacked me and told me that I was the worst governor. But now that I am president my door is open to him. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Rumors of Nuclear Waste at Port

PY1304010890 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The General Port Administration this morning denied the alleged presence of nuclear waste containers at the Buenos Aires Port.

The report of nuclear waste, made by LA RAZON, caused residents of the capital to become concerned about the alleged presence of dangerous chemical products from abroad. (Ruben Citara), deputy trustee of the General Port Administration, said that the area where the containers are located is not a depot for explosives or inflammable chemical products as reported. So far nothing has been said about what is inside the containers.

Manuel Mondino, chairman of the National Commission for Atomic Energy, also denied the presence of a nuclear waste in the Buenos Aires port. He also reported that the Atucha nuclear plant will operate with 75 percent of its capacity on 14 April. The plant is currently operating only at 50 percent capacity.

PRC President To Visit Country 26-29 May

PY1204181690 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1650 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr (DYN)—PRC President Yang Shangkun has confirmed that he will visit this country 26-29 May in response to an invitation extended to him a few months ago by Argentine President Carlos Menem.

The PRC Embassy has reported that the two leaders will hold several meetings to discuss the future of their bilateral relations, especially Sino-Argentine trade.

Brazil

Provisional Measure on Monetary Reform Approved

PY1204132890 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The substitution of the cruzado and the new rules governing financial assets are now definitive. The national currency is once again called the cruzeiro and it is divided into cents.

The maximum amount that can be withdrawn from savings accounts remains at 50,000 cruzeiros. The maximum amount that can be withdrawn from the profits of the overnight [preceding word in English] interest rates is 25,000 cruzeiros or 20 percent of the accrued total. The maximum amount that can be withdrawn from the accrued short-term interest rates is 20 percent of the total. The withdrawal limit in current accounts continues to be 50,000 cruzeiros.

Any amount above these figure will remained blocked in the Central Bank for a period of 18 months. After the 18-month deadline the Central Bank will release the blocked money in equal monthly amounts over a period of 12 months.

Provisional Measure 165 Signed Into Law

PY1204122290 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Apr 90 p A 8

["Text" of amended provisional measure 165 converted by Congress into Conversion Law 12]

[Text] Conversion Law No. 12, of 1990
On mandatory taxpayers' identification and other provisions.
The National Congress decrees:

Article 1. As of the date this law goes into effect, payment or redemption of any financial instrument or investment, as well as of its yield or return to an unidentified beneficiary is banned.

Single paragraph. Noncompliance with the provision in this article will make the responsible party liable to a fine

equal to the value of the operation, monetarily corrected from the date of the operation to the date of its effective payment.

Article 2. From the date of publication of this law, the following operations are forbidden:

I. Issuance of bearer or order shares in mutual funds:

II. Issuance of bearer or order securities and deposit certificates;

III. Issuance of bearer checks for amounts higher than or equal to the value of 100 National Treasury Bonds (BTN) for the month a check is drawn.

Single paragraph. Checks drawn in violation of Item III of this article will not be processed by the Checks and Papers Clearing Service.

Article 3. The taxpayer who redeems bearer shares in mutual funds, and bearer or order shares in fixed return instruments or investments existing on 16 March 1990 will be subject to tax withholding of 25 percent on the redeemed value.

Paragraph 1. The tax will be withheld by the institution that redeems the securities. The tax will be transferred to the National Treasury in accordance with rules applicable to income tax withholding.

Paragraph 2. The tax will be assessed on a value computed as liquid yield, excluding the assessed tax, for the purpose of justifying an increase of assets in the personal net worth declaration (Law 4069/62, Article 31) to be submitted in the following fiscal year.

Paragraph 3. The tax withheld under provision of this article does not exclude payment of income tax on returns from the respective securities or investments.

Paragraph 4. The taxpayer will be exempted from the payment of the tax provided for in this article if he can prove to the Federal Revenues Department that the origin of the redeemed value can be traced to personal earnings, declared in keeping with income tax legislation.

Paragraph 5. The release of resources in disregard of the provision in the preceding paragraph will make the financial institution liable to a 25-percent fine on the value of the redeemed instruments or investments, monetarily corrected as of the date of their transaction.

Article 4. Article 20 of Law 6404 dated 15 December 1976 will henceforth be in force with the following modification:

"Article 20. The shares must be endorsable."

Article 5. The stock corporations will have two years to adapt their statutes to the provisions in the preceding article.

Paragraph 1. During the time period referred to in this article, the operations with bearer or order shares outstanding on the date of publication of this law can only be transacted if the following conditions are cumulatively met:
a. The shares must be retained by a financial institution or stock exchange authorized to operate by the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM) or the Central Bank of Brazil in the area of its competence;
b. The seller and the buyer must be identified.

Paragraph 2. The shares mentioned in this article can only be released if the owner is identified.

Paragraph 3. The safekeeping financial institution or stock exchange must send, by the 15th of each month, a report to the Federal Revenues Department identifying the owner, the quantity, the kind and acquisition value of shares that have been released in the previous month.

Paragraph 4. Noncompliance with the provision in the preceding paragraph will make the safekeeping financial institution or stock exchange liable to a 25-percent fine on the value of the shares monetarily corrected for the period running from the deadline when the report is due and the date when the fine is actually paid.

Paragraph 5. For the purpose of the preceding paragraph, the value of the share is considered to be the average price of negotiation at the stock exchange on the date the share was released or, in default of this, the average price of the share at the last day it was transacted at the stock exchange, corrected by the Fiscal [corrected for inflation daily] BTN until the date it was released.

Paragraph 6. For shares not negotiated at stock exchange, their value for the purpose of preceding Paragraph 4 is considered to be their asset value corrected by the Fiscal BTN from the date of the last balance statement to the date taken off from custody.

Article 6. In addition to cases specified by law, taxpayers will be registered by assessing earnings on the basis of income presumed by outward signs of wealth.

Paragraph 1. Expenses not justified by the taxpayer's disposable income are considered outward signs of wealth

Paragraph 2. The taxpayer's disposable income is calculated by subtracting from his income the reductions and deductions allowed by the income tax legislation in force plus the income tax he pays.

Paragraph 3. For the purpose of this article, the taxpayer will be notified for the fiscal assessment procedure.

Paragraph 4. For assessment purposes, market prices current at the time the events took place will be taken as basis, and, consequently, official economic indicators or specialized technical publications can be accepted.

Paragraph 5. The assessment can also be made on the basis of deposits or investments in financial institutions

whenever the taxpayer cannot prove the origin of the resources used in those operations.

Paragraph 6. Whatever the method for assessing earnings, the one more favorable to the taxpayer will be chosen.

Article 7. The fiscal authority of the Economy, Finance, and Planning Ministry can proceed to examine documents, books, and records at stock, merchandise, futures exchanges, and others, as well as to request clarifications and information on operations, including operations related to third parties.

Paragraph 1. The information must be provided within 10 days from the date it was requested. Noncompliance with this deadline will subject the institution to a fine equivalent to 1,000 BTN's per working day of delay.

Paragraph 2. The information obtained under provision of this article can only be used to verify compliance with tax obligations.

Paragraph 3. The public servant who discloses information obtained under provision of this article will be subject to sanctions stipulated in Article 325 of the Brazilian Penal Code.

Article 8. Once the fiscal procedure is initiated, the fiscal authority can request information on operations conducted by the taxpayer in financial institutions, including bank statements, not applying, in this case, provisions in Article 38 of Law 4595 dated 31 December 1964.

Single paragraph. The information that is to be provided under rules dictated by the Economy, Finance, and Planning Ministry must be submitted within 10 working days from the date it was requested, applying, should this deadline be violated, the sanction provided for in Paragraph 1 of Article 7.

Article 9. The banks authorized to take in deposits of any nature, must centralize, in one of the establishments of their organization, the accounts of nonresidents in the country.

Article 10. The executive branch is empowered to conclude agreements with other countries for repatriation of assets of any nature, including financial assets and securities owned by Brazilian enterprises and individuals resident in the country.

Single paragraph. Repatriated assets will be subject to 25-percent income tax.

Article 11. The executive branch will dictate regulations for the implementation of this law.

Article 12. This law becomes binding on the date of its publication.

Article 13. Article 9 of Law 4729 dated 14 July 1965, Articles 32 and 33 of Law 6404 dated 15 December 1976, and other provisions to the contrary are revoked.

Hall of Commissions, 29 March 1990.
Deputy Francisco Dornelles, president
Deputy Paulo Macarini, coordinator
Deputy Paulo Pimentel
Deputy Jose Serra
Deputy Joao Rezek
Senator Alexandre Costa
Senator Calos Patrocinio
Senator Chagas Rodrigues
Deputy Miraldo Gomes
Senator Hugo Napoleao

Minister Announces 2d Phase of Economic Plan

PY1304031290 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello said that the government is now going to implement the second phase of the economic stabilization plan.

Satisfied with way Congress has voted on the provisional measures, Minister Cardoso de Mello said that the government will now start to implement the second phase of the economic stabilization plan.

[Begin Cardoso recording] First we needed to make sure that the program to curb inflation could be implemented. We obtained those guarantees with the approval of Congress. Now we need to implement measures, which we already had in mind, to guarantee the country's economic growth, which is something everyone wants. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Special Credit Line for Construction Authorized

PY1304030490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The government has authorized the Federal Savings Bank to open a special credit line for 32 billion cruzeiros for the reactivation of civil engineering construction and thus prevent mass unemployment in this sector. [passage omitted]

[Begin Collor recording] This measure, which has just been signed by the Economy Minister, once again shows the zeal and caution with which our economic program is being handled. We are closely watching the developments and considering all suggestions and demands received. However, we believe that only by gradually opening our imaginary dam will we safeguard the success of our economic program. [end recording]

President Collor has voiced his satisfaction over the fact that the main guidelines of the economic program have not been amended by Congress. According to him this will make it possible to curb inflation and resume the country's economic growth.

Volume of Exports Since 1982

Key:
1. In just seven years military equipment exports declined 81.5 percent, totaling $157 million in 1989. The best year for the war materiel industry was 1985, when foreign sales totaled $1.2 billion.
2. million
3. billion
4. Source: Research

Chinese President Yang Shangkun To Visit in May

PY1304033090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Chinese President Yang Shangkun will visit Brasilia next May. President Yang Shangkun will be the first PRC chief of state to ever visit Brazil. The official announcement of his visit was made this afternoon in Brasilia and Beijing.

President Fernando Collor visited the PRC while he was serving as governor of Alagoas State.

*** War Materiel Industry Shifts to Civilian Focus**

90SM0004B Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 11 Mar 90 p 49

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Sports jeeps, engineering consultation, civilian antennas (who knows?) have become part of the product line offered by the Brazilian military equipment industry that, three years ago, was winning bidding competitions in the First World with its Urutu and Cascavel armored tanks on wheels. For an industry expecting exports to total $1 billion in 1990, it is a setback. But it is the solution found to cope with the crisis that led the major companies in the sector to a pre-bankrupt state in 1989.

"No one is giving up the battle," claims entrepreneur Flavio Bernardini, director of Bernardini Industry and Commerce, who in the early 1970's prompted the traditional manufacturer of safes and furniture to meet the Brazilian Army's demand, modernizing tanks, trucks, and jeeps, and nationalizing equipment for all three branches of service.

Flavio Bernardini expects the market to become normalized, and has positive expectations regarding the new government and for the resumption of investments in new military products. But he has no doubt that the rush by companies into the civilian area is here to stay.

He remarks: "It would be ideal if we had a moderate dedication to military products, but 70 percent or more of our billing is generated by civilian products. In 1989 military sales accounted for less than 20 percent of our

business. The company's livelihood actually comes from exports of security doors and bank safes."

The same process, though more radical, occurred at Tectran, Transport Technology, a subsidiary of AVIBRAS [Avibras Aerospace Industry, Inc]. Engineer Sancho Morieta, an expert on special transportation and director of the company, says that, since December 1988, Tectran has not supplied any military materiel, and that the vehicles that it has in stock have all been purchased by AVIBRAS, although payment has not been made for them. Since that time Tectran has been an exclusively civilian firm.

Last week Sancho Morieta went to Campinas carrying a special proposal: he submitted a plan for a railway bus invented by Tectran.

It is a train capable of transporting up to 450 passengers, with a range of 600 km and a structure consisting of a bus chassis driven by diesel fuel or natural gas on railroad tracks.

This idea is also in the Ministry of Transport, waiting for political backing and agreements with private enterprise.

The search for diversified products is the alternative that all the military equipment companies have been adopting over the past two years. The large firms, however, have been late in embarking on this path. ENGESA [Specialized Engineers, Incorporated] initially verticalized its production, and established subsidiaries for making tank armor, electronic components, ammunition, weapons systems, optical systems, and others.

Based on its strategy, this meant having a series of products and by-products with which to supply other manufacturers of weapons, capital equipment, and even computers. The accelerated debt caused by investments without a return in the Osorio battle tank (six years ago, in negotiations with Saudi Arabia that proved unsuccessful), and in the purchase of other companies, precluded ENGESA's emergence from the crisis. It ended up selling part of its stock shares to an Arab group and selling Engetronica to Moddata.

The situation at AVIBRAS is also difficult. Like ENGESA, it had as many as 6,000 employees, and it now has only 800 (ENGESA has 1,000), with debts totaling $300 million. ENGESA even had 500 bills protested and several petitions for bankruptcy, owing to debts that were only paid on paper. However, only AVIBRAS went so far as to file for preventive bankruptcy, pressured by its creditors.

The company now has two prospects: to sell antennas for TV reception and data transmission via satellite, a market on which there are several manufacturers and strong competition from contraband; or to accrue great success from the association formed with China through International Satellite Communications (Inscom).

That firm provides services to the Chinese, designing telecommunications management systems, as well as antennas and earth stations. It so happens that most of the countries contracting services with China for satellite launching already have their earth systems, which reduces the demand for AVIBRAS services.

Chile

Suspects in Pinochet Attack Released From Jail

PY1204140290 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Apr 90

[Text] Two political prisoners have been released from jail on conditional freedom. They had initially been charged with participating in the attempt on General Pinochet's life in Cajon del Maipo.

The information was provided by lawyer Alfonso Inzunza who added that prisoners Flor Lord Canelero, who was on a hunger strike at the Femenine Detention Center on Santo Domingo Street in Santiago, and Francisco Figueroa, who was kept at the Santiago Public Jail, were favored by a resolution of the Court Martial dictated today.

They will be given conditional freedom, two years and seven months since they were accused of participating in the attack on the motorcade of General Pinochet in September 1987. In December 1989, Canelero and Figueroa were placed under the jurisdiction of the Sixth Military Prosecutor's Office after no evidence could be found of their participation in that attack. The defense lawyers, Alfonso Inzunza and Camilo Mack then requested that the charges under the antiterrorist law be changed to charges under the Arms Control Law and that they be given conditional freedom.

The Sixth Military Prosecutor Office turned down the request, and the defense had to appeal to the Court Martial, which today modified the charges and granted Canelero and Figueroa conditional freedom.

Foreign Minister on Policy, Ties With Cuba

PY1204145690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Report by special correspondent Raul Pena Thayer]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma explained the government's future international policy to the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee and subsequently with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in two separate sessions. This policy was accepted and approved by ruling-party congressmen, but, from an ideological viewpoint, the opposition's congressmen supported two different positions. They unanimously pointed out, however, that Chile should not place so much emphasis on relations with Latin American nations but with European nations and with other nations that are commercially more attractive.

Silva Cimma explained in four hours—two hours in each session—that the international policy of the government of Patricio Aylwin will have a modern conception based on the unrestricted championing of the democratic system, human rights, and solidarity. The treaties concerning drug trafficking and terrorism will also be ratified.

Concerning the objectives of this foreign policy, Silva Cimma noted:

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] In the first place, the objectives of this policy are to make an effort to reintroduce Chile into today's world. We demonstrated this with the way in which people could freely attend the transfer of power in Chile.

In the second place, with the resumption of diplomatic relations with virtually all the countries of the world with the sole exception—so far—of Cuba and other countries, a decision that is being carefully studied for reasons that have already been explained. [as heard] [end recording]

The foreign minister confirmed that unofficial talks have been held with Cuba and that it is very possible that consular relations will be established with the Castro government by the end of the year. He did not want to advance anything concerning the existing points of discord [puntos de confrontacion] that stand in the way of diplomatic relations.

Nevertheless, it was learned that Cuba is trying to convince Chile that Cuba is not the center for exporting continental terrorism. Meanwhile, in our country, information is being gathered to see if this is true, at least for our nation. [passage omitted]

List of Foreign Dignitaries To Visit Announced

PY1204151290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Six chiefs of state and high-ranking dignitaries of various countries and international organizations will visit Chile this year. They are Colombian President Virgilio Barco, the Peruvian vice president, U.S. President George Bush, Spanish King Juan Carlos de Borbon and Queen Sofia, and PRC President Yang Shangkun. This information was released by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the UNESCO director general will also visit our country this year. The Chinese president will arrive in Chile in late May and will spend two days in our country.

It was also reported that President Patricio Aylwin will soon visit Peru for the transfer of power and then he will go to Brazil at the invitation of President Collor de Mello. After the visit of the Spanish royal couple, Aylwin is also scheduled to travel to New York in late September and attend a UN period of sessions.

Cuban Wanted in Letelier Attack Detained in U.S.

PY1204190290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said that he has information unknown to the public confirming the importance of yesterday's detention of Cuban nationalist Dionisio Suarez in Florida. He was a fugitive from U.S. justice for his alleged direct involvement in an attack in which former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier was killed.

Silva Cimma said that Suarez' detention is very important and helpful to the overall investigation. He also reported that he was asking the Chilean Embassy in Washington to supply all the appropriate information to determine any relationship to a case being heard by the courts in our country.

Silva Cimma refrained from commenting on the possibility that this detention will involve reopening a case concerning forged passports case. Due to its internal legal connotations, this issue is under the responsibility of the Justice Ministry, he said.

Concerning the cooperation that the current government is granting the United States, the foreign minister said that the U.S. Government has done nothing else but admit our clear and unambiguous signs of cooperation. Silva Cimma said that the government is studying this matter with great interest and in a very positive way, and that it is extremely interested in its resolution as soon as possible.

PCCh Leader Denies Crisis, Admits Difficulties

PY1204160690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has emphasized that the party is not going through a crisis, but admitted that it is going through a difficult process of discussion and debate. PCCh leader Manuel Cantero also described the group headed by Patricio Hales, a group that withdrew from the party and asked the entire governing body to resign, as anti-democratic.

Julieta Campusano, in the name of the Central Committee, insisted on the immediate release of all the so-called political prisoners, asking the government and Congress for an expeditious decision on this matter.

[Begin Campusano recording] The government and Congress today are in a position to ensure and expedite their release. We urge them to act without delay and to be aware that the release of all the political prisoners is one of the most important demands of the Chilean people and the international community. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Cantero said that Hales had participated in the 15th PCCh Congress, but that his dissident and critical stand was held at an absolute minimum.

Bomb Damages Residence of Supreme Court Members

PY1304020490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Excerpt] An unidentified individual today carried out a criminal terrorist attack against the residence of high judicial branch officials. The individual set off a bomb that miraculously did not injure anyone but did seriously damage the building, located at 35 Ricardo Layo Avenue, at the corner of Providencia Avenue.

The plastic explosive, which weighed over 400 grams, was activated mechanically and reportedly was set off by an individual disguised as a telephone company worker. The bomb was put against the door of apartment 6 on the third floor, where Supreme Court Justice Hernan Alvarez lives. Supreme Court Justice Sergio Mery lives in Apartment Five on the same floor. Supreme Court Justice Enrique Correa, court secretaries (Hugo Dolvich) and Aroldo Brito, and prosecutor Roberto Ibarra of the Appellate Court of the Pedro Aguirre Cerda District live on the first and second floors. [passage omitted]

New Exchange Market Regulations To Be Instigated

PY1204185490 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Central Bank has announced that as of 19 April new rules and regulations for the exchange market will go into effect. The elimination of the parallel dollar market is the most important measure to be implemented. Central Bank President Andres Bianchi released this information. He explained that the formal market will include the banks and authorized money exchange houses.

The measures outline and regulate the operations that will be carried out in this market. The measures establish that income collected in foreign currencies must be channeled through this market. This market must also be used for sending foreign exchange abroad.

The informal market will be made up of all economic institutions who work freely with unregulated operations. This means that foreign exchange may be legally and freely purchased as long as they do not pertain to regulated operations.

Foreign tourists may exchange their currency in either of the two markets. Chileans can purchase their quota in the formal market and complement it by purchasing additional foreign exchange in the informal market.

Colombia

'Extraditables' Claim Car Bomb, Threaten Police

PA1304005990 Paris AFP in Spanish 2321 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 12 Apr (AFP)—Today, in a telephone call to a radio station in Medellin, 500 km northwest of Bogota, the "Extraditables," the armed branch of the Colombian cocaine cartel, threatened to kill every single policeman in sight.

The man on the telephone, who said he was one of the "Extraditables," claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack in which a car bomb exploded killing eight members of an elite police patrol near Medellin.

According to a communique released by the authorities today, the final casualty count from the explosion is eight policemen and 12 civilians dead, with 110 others injured. The injured were taken to clinics in Medellin, Itagui, and Bogota.

The man who made the call threatened that the attacks against the police would continue. He also demanded the release of an individual whom he identified as Nelson Arbelaez.

"We will kill every policeman in sight until Arbelaez shows up," the man said, according to a report aired in Bogota by a privately-owned radio station.

In addition, the authorities said the car bomb had been prepared to attack General Harold Bedoya, 4th Army Brigade Commander and a powerful enemy of the drug traffickers. Bedoya's vehicle had passed by the site just 10 minutes before the explosion.

Police Vow To Continue Fight

PA1204170390 Paris AFP in Spanish 1504 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 12 Apr (AFP)—The dynamite attack that killed 18 persons today, including eight policemen, worsened the war between the Colombian law enforcement authorities and the narcotics trafficking mafias led by Pablo Escobar Gaviria, local observers said today.

Police Chief General Octavio Vargas vowed today that "we will not backstep in our efforts against the Medellin Cartel."

He added that the "police will not take one step backward in its struggle to halt the cartel's offensive."

Gen. Vargas condemned, rejected, and regretted a dynamite attack staged on 11 April in Medellin, 500 km northwest of Bogota, and said that "such actions, where eight policemen were killed, encourage us to seek victory."

A car loaded with approximately 150 kg of dynamite was detonated by remote control yesterday along an avenue that joins Medellin with Itagui—an industrial area 20 km from the capital of the northwestern Antioquia Department where the cocaine cartel operates. Gen. Vargas said that if necessary, the police will order the posting all of its elite units in Medellin to counter the actions launched by Pablor Escobar Gaviria.

Gen. Vargas warned that "if required, we will move all detachments of the Police Elite Corps to Medellin to defeat this criminal."

Pablo Escobar Charged in Recent Murders

PA1204170190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1509 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 12 Apr (AFP)—Colombian National Police Director General Miguel Antonio Gomez today ordered that legal charges be presented against drugpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria for each of the 28 [number as received] policemen murdered in Medellin over the past two weeks.

According to a police intelligence bulletin that was reported today in Bogota, Escobar Gaviria, head of the cocaine trafficking cartel that operates from Medellin, ordered that criminal attacks be centered against Police Judicial Investigation (DIJIN) members, its elite corps, and the Medellin Carlos Holguin School.

The same reports stated that Escobar Gaviria had doubled the amount offered for each policeman murdered or kidnapped in Medellin, 500 km northeast of Bogota. The police bulletin notes that the Medellin Cartel boss had offered to pay "four million pesos ($8,800) for each policeman, 20 million pesos ($44,000) for each officer, and 50 million pesos ($110,000) for the Carlos Holguin School director in Medellin."

The police communique reports that security organizations discovered another charge of explosives in a funeral vehicle that, apparently, was to be used against the DIJIN in Bogota.

UK Offers 4 Million Pounds for Drug Struggle

PA1204152190 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Apr 90

[Text] President Virgilio Barco today received more economic aid from the UK to fight drug trafficking. During his address to the International Conference Against Drugs in London, Barco asked drug addicts to decrease their consumption because this has taken Colombia to the verge of disaster.

More than 2,000 policemen, judges, journalists, and politicians have been assassinated over the past two years for their leading role in the anti-drug struggle, Barco said today to the participants of the first conference on drugs convened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her government will give Colombia an additional 4 million pounds sterling, approximately $8 million, in aid. According to President Barco, these funds will be used to support the anti-drug struggle and to provide protection for judges.

President Barco addressed 800 ministers and delegates from 112 nations and told them that, despite the sacrifices being made by many [words indistinct] drug trafficking, people are thinking about legalizing drugs.

[Begin Barco recording] People have sacrificed themselves, but many others have succumbed to (?threats) and intimidation. Furthermore, some have [words indistinct] the comfortable idea that it is better to legalize [words indistinct] drugs or simply to ignore the issue. [end recording]

The president added that Colombia is waging a struggle against an international criminal organization that admits no borders and that can move freely from one country to another with the same ease with which its bank accounts are transferred. He added that the struggle in which Colombia is immersed reveals that the drug lords are not invincible, that they are not untouchable. He said: The myth that the drug lords are stronger than the state and society is simply that, a myth.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister on GATT, U.S. Conditions

PA1204154190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2308 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Caracas, 1 Apr (EFE)—Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo described as unacceptable the conditions the United States is imposing on Venezuela to become a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Figueredo reported that Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will travel to Washington, D.C. on 26 April where he will meet with his colleague George Bush to discuss the matter.

Likewise, Figueredo pointed out that he will travel to the U.S. capital before President Perez to find out how the United States feels about Venezuelan participation in the GATT.

At the talks being held in Geneva, the United States proposed conditions that harm our current economic relations, Figueredo added.

The foreign minister emphasized that during the negotiations, Venezuela is going to demand that the characteristics of this developing nation be respected.

The United States, Venezuela's main trading partner, suggested that trade liberation measures adopted by Venezuela in 1989, as part of its trade reform, not be taken into account as that nation's contribution to the GATT at the meeting to be held in Uruguay or for multilateral trade negotiations.

Likewise, the United States proposed that the schedule for Venezuela, to gradually eliminate import tariffs on the agricultural sector, be reduced from five to two years.

Guyana

Wage Talks for Sugar Producers Set To Resume

FL1004172690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1640 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 10, CANA—The Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) and the country's main sugar union are to resume wages talks on Thursday [12 April], two weeks after they were suspended, officials said on Tuesday [10 April]. The talks were suspended after Guysuco said it was not prepared to continue while sugar production was being affected by strikes at some sugar estates.

Guysuco's withdrawal from the talks prompted a two-day strike by members of the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP)-linked Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU). Both Guysuco and GAWU officials confirmed on Tuesday the resumption of the talks. GAWU is demanding a daily minimum wage of GUY160 dollars (one GUY dollar = three US cents) for sugar workers.

GAWU's general secretary, Komal Chand, told CANA that Guysuco has not responded to the union's demands.

Suriname

Soviet Diplomat Found Murdered Alongside Highway

FL1004224590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2149 GMT 10 Apr 90

[Text] Paramaribo, 10 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Surinamese police reported today that the body of Stasis Abukauskas, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Suriname, was found in a pit alongside the highway leading toward the southern part of the country.

The police explained that the body of the USSR diplomat had several bullet holes in the head and, according to preliminary investigations, the Soviet diplomat was murdered early this morning.

In a communique the police stated that a blue Mazda was found near the body of Abukauskas, who normally drove a brown Mercedes Benz.

The reasons for the murder of the 41-year-old Soviet diplomat are still unknown.

3 Arrested for Murder

LD1204211890 Moscow TASS in English 2100 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 13 (TASS)—Three people who were arrested in the west of Suriname have confessed the killing of Stasis Abukauskas, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Suriname on the night of April 9 to 10.

The FRANCE PRESSE news agency reports the names of the killers. These are unemployed Peter Burgzorg, 18, and Denny Pocorni, 17, as well as Steven Wiijders, 22. There were arrested during an attempt to sell the car of the Soviet diplomat killed by them.

The bullet-riddled body of Stasis Abukauskas was discovered in a roadside ditch on Tuesday, 30 kilometres away from Paramaribo, the capital of the country.

The 42-year-old Soviet diplomat had arrived as second secretary of the Embassy in Paramaribo a year ago.

Government Reasserts Proposal to Jungle Commando

FL1204214490 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Apr 90

[Text] The Surinamese Government sticks to its standpoint that the installation of the so-called Authority For The Interior is dividing the country. This is stated in a letter sent by the government to the Jungle Commando.

The proposal by the rebel group for the installation of the so-called Authority For The Interior led to a deadlock in the discussions in Paramaribo just over two weeks ago.

In the letter to the rebels, the government has again stated its counterproposal to establish councils for the support of regional development. The councils will have to advise the Planning Bureau and support the traditional authorities to carry out their policy.

Meanwhile, the government is still against the installation of a so-called Authority For The Interior, according to the letter.

Among other things, the Jungle Commando proposed that far-reaching mandate to govern should be given to the so-called Authority For The Interior.